



HERE TO PLUNDER A WIMBLEDON CROWN

Monica Seles, the women's No 1 seed, is seeking to extend her tennis dominance to grass Championship Supplement Pages IV and V



INVADERS ON A BIKE FOR TOUR OF FRANCE

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CAN HENLEY SURVIVE THE TENTED PIRATES?

Peter Barnard studies form for the corporate hospitality race in the season of the desirable ticket Life & Times Page 1

'Negotiation in tatters' after killings

Mandela calls off ANC talks with de Klerk

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela yesterday summarily called a halt to talks with the South African government on a new democratic order. The negotiation process is completely in tatters, he said.

The president of the African National Congress showed himself profoundly angered by the massacre on Wednesday night of 39 people in the Vaal township of Boipatong, 40 miles south of Johannesburg.

Mr Mandela was even further shocked by the random and undisciplined police firing at demonstrators there on Saturday. He said: "I can no longer explain to our people why we continue to talk to a government which is murdering our people."

His voice thickened by a bout of flu, Mr Mandela addressed 20,000 supporters at a stadium in Evaton, a few miles from the traumatised township whose name means hiding place in the local Tswana tongue. He told them: "I have called an emergency meeting of the ANC national executive committee to examine our options in the light of what has happened."

But he called off a meeting between the ANC and the government which was due to have taken place tomorrow. The next meeting of the management committee of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, due to have taken place a week today, when it was expected that matters of substance on the technical differences between the two sides would have been discussed, has also been called off.

Government officials were caught unprepared for Mr Mandela's surprise announcement. President de Klerk had left the country earlier in the day, to carry to Spain his campaign to win overseas funds and influence investment.

Government spokesmen contented themselves with pointing out that it was not yet entirely clear from what Mr Mandela had said whether the ANC was breaking off the entire Codesa process or was merely suspending one-to-one talks with the government.

The negotiation process has been limping heavily since the failure of the second plenary session of Codesa to produce a public agreement at the end of last month. The positions of the two sides had hardened during the negotia-



Fist of defiance: Nelson Mandela at yesterday's rally of 20,000 ANC supporters in a stadium near Boipatong, where the killings took place

Names sign protest note

Dissenting names at Lloyd's of London will soon present a petition, signed by more than 100 of them, calling for a vote of no confidence in David Coleridge, the chairman of the insurance market, and the ruling council of Lloyd's.

Claud Gurney, a name, and Richard Astor, a barrister who acts for a number of names and whose parents are names, will present the petition to the council "imminently". Page 19

Police arrest 32 at solstice

Hundreds of policemen spent the night before solstice touring the outer limits of an exclusion zone around Stonehenge. Of the few travellers who attempted to get near the monument, 32 were arrested. Three were charged and the remainder released. Page 3

Havel upset

President Havel of Czechoslovakia condemned as unconstitutional the decision by Czech and Slovak leaders to split the country, saying that only a referendum could decide Czechoslovakia's future. Page 10

Cabinet split

The cabinet is divided over plans by the European Commission to force a 48-hour limit on the British working week. The prime minister and Douglas Hurd are thought to support a compromise. Page 18

Over-40s fight

Britain will use its presidency of the EC to highlight employment discrimination in Brussels against the over-40s. Page 4

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Britain to push EC on peace in Yugoslavia

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITAIN is to make peace in the former Yugoslavia a top priority when it takes over the presidency of the EC Council of Ministers from Portugal on July 1. The failing peace process will transfer from Lisbon to London, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, will travel to Yugoslavia.

Shelling and sniping fighting continued unabated in Sarajevo yesterday, thwarting United Nations' efforts to open the city's airport to allow food and medicine to reach the besieged 300,000 residents of the Bosnian capital. The leadership of Bosnia-

Herzegovina declared a state of war at the weekend, mobilising defence reserves.

General Lewis Mackenzie, chief negotiator for the UN Protection Force said that fighting in the Dobrinja district of Sarajevo was still too fierce for the airlift to go ahead.

People in Dobrinja told Belgrade reporters by telephone that they had eaten no bread for two months and their children were without milk or sugar. Many are living in basement shelters.

EC presidency, page 10

Pakistan clinch close Test win

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ONE of the most compelling Test matches in recent years finished a day early yesterday when Pakistan beat England by two wickets at Lord's.

Wasim Akram, their all-rounder who guided them to victory with an unbeaten 45, was chosen as man of the match.

Wasim and Waqar Younis, the fast bowler, added 46 crucial runs for the undefeated ninth wicket. Pakistan had needed only 138 to win.

England collapsed to 175 all out in their second innings before a telling spell by Chris Lewis, their opening bowler, gave them a chance of victory. He dismissed three batsmen for ducks and also held a catch as the Pakistanis collapsed to 41 for four. That became 95 for eight, whereupon Wasim played his match-winning innings.

The fine weather at Lord's yesterday is forecast to continue in the first week of Wimbledon. This is in marked contrast to last year, when it rained on the first five days of the tournament. The outlook is that it will be sunny until Thursday, at least.

Bitter ANC, page 12

De Klerk's disaster, page 14

Sea search fails to find teenagers

BY PETER VICTOR

THREE young men who went for a jaunt in a speedboat without safety equipment were feared dead last night after coastguards abandoned a 20-hour search off the Irish Sea and west Wales.

In a separate incident off the southwest coast of Ireland, four men were rescued from a blazing trawler.

Simon Roberts, Gareth Smith and Steven Evans, all 19, from Ammanford, Dyfed, in Wales, were still missing last night after 30 hours. They were last seen at 1pm on Saturday when they had set out from Pendine beach, Carmarthen Bay, in a 2ft red and white speedboat.

Coastguards said they were not thought to have water or provisions on board. The men were dressed in T-shirts and shorts, and had no radio, flares, lifejackets or emergency equipment of any kind.

Two Nimrod planes, three helicopters and four lifeboats joined the search across 2,500 square miles of sea off west Wales. Coastguards carried out an intensive search of the shore. Police and holidaymakers scoured the coastline in case the teenagers had come ashore for the night. Broadcasts requested shipping in the area to keep a

lookout for the men and their boat. Relatives of the missing men waited yesterday at Pendine in the faint hope that the boat would be found.

A Milford Haven coastguard spokesman said last night: "We decided to call off the search on the basis that there is now little chance of finding them alive."

Inspector Gareth Jones of Carmarthen police said: "This is terribly sad. Their families are absolutely sick. They are just young lads."

A teenager was rescued from Belnashua island in the Sound of Luing, near Oban, after an adventure party hailed a passing yacht. A Sea King helicopter airlifted Matthew Bell, 16, from Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, to the West Highland Hospital in Oban. He was suffering from appendicitis.

The weather today is expected to remain dry, warm and fairly sunny for much of central and eastern England and Scotland. However, thicker cloud may affect southern counties of England, at times giving isolated showers, with more cloud over the western side of the country.

Trawler rescue, page 2

Ear prints will soon get criminals in a flap

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

PC PLOD would like a word with you.



CRIMINALS' ears could soon be their downfall. Forensic scientists have developed a computerised photography system that can match facial features recorded by a bank security camera to those of a suspect photographed during a police interview.

Peter Vanezis, a leading pathologist, said yesterday that overseas research indicated that "ear prints" could be almost as valuable as fingerprints. A researcher in America who had collected ear prints over 38 years had never found two the same, he said. Similar research in the former East Germany with several hundred white European males had come to the same conclusion.

The computer system Dr Vanezis has developed with scientists at University College Hospital, central London, superimposes magnified photographs of a

criminal's ears, nose or teeth on those of a suspect. The technique has already helped the police uncover a man using a series of aliases. The researchers matched the edges and alignment of his teeth shown in one photograph with others taken during a series of crimes.

The computer system, based at Charing Cross Hospital, west London, is at the centre of a forensic laboratory to be unveiled there tomorrow by John Smith, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. The centre's expertise will be made available to police forces and prosecution and defence lawyers.

Dr Vanezis will tell the audience tomorrow that, for the video superimposition service to work effectively, security cameras need to be better deployed. They are often too high, producing images difficult to align on the computer. Police officers also need to be trained to take better angled pictures of suspects and should use video rather than tradi-

tional photography, he will say. "It is much easier to compare two video stills. If we can get properly aligned video stills from the police station, then we are in business," Dr Vanezis said.

The new forensic science centre will also continue work which Dr Vanezis has been developing for more than four years to computer-generate a face from a skull. A laser maps and measures 20,000 anatomical points from which software can create a three-dimensional image based on age, sex and race.

The technique was used in conjunction with Richard Neave, the medical illustrator at Manchester University who can reconstruct faces from skull moulds, in the case of Karen Price, whose body was found buried in a Cardiff back garden in December 1989.

Eventually the research might allow reconstruction of a masked robber's face to be made from the contours of his tightly fitting hood.

COMPANY DIRECTORS

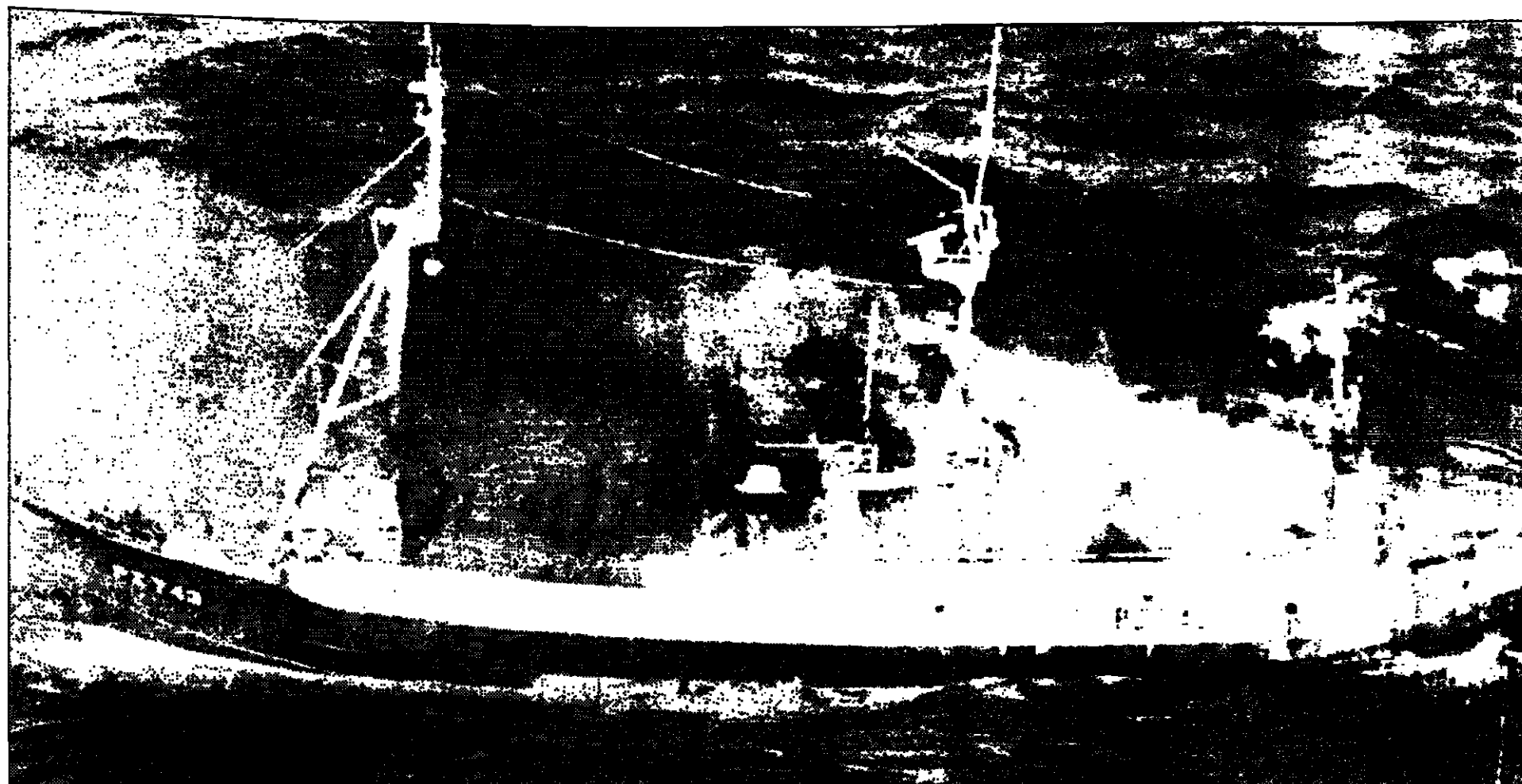
FROM JULY 1ST
YOUR COMPANY WILL BE CHARGED IF YOU ARE LATE FILING YOUR ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

From 1 July 1992 a new sliding scale of late filing penalties will be imposed on all limited companies that fail to file their accounts on time. Just one day late and a company will be automatically penalised. The longer the delay - the more there is to pay (see table).

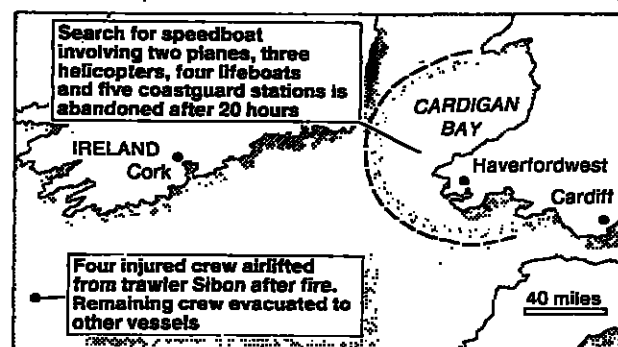
Company	7 months late	6 months late	12 months late	12 months late
PUBLIC	£500	£1,000	£2,000	£5,000
PRIVATE	£100	£250	£500	£1,000



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Companies House is an Executive Agency of the Department of Trade and Industry



Stricken vessel: smoke rising from the British-registered but Spanish-crewed *Sibon* yesterday 120 miles southwest of Cork after an explosion and fire on board



Four rescued from rafts after blast

BY PETER VICTOR

FOUR members of the crew of a Spanish fishing vessel were plucked by an Irish helicopter from life rafts 120 miles southwest of Cork yesterday after an explosion and fire on the vessel. The men, who were taken to hospital in Cork, were injured in the initial blast. One has serious burns and the three

others have third degree burns. Eleven remaining members of the crew of the *Sibon*, which is British-registered and registered in Penzance, were taken to safety by two other Spanish vessels fishing near by. It is understood that the owner of the *Sibon* also owned the British-registered fishing boat the *Pescado*, which sank last year with the loss of all her crew. Police launched an investigation after the sinking and decided recently to have the vessel raised. A 20-hour sea, air and coastline search off southwest Wales for Simon Roberts, Gareth Smith and Steven Evans, all 19, from Ammanford, Dyfed, who set off from Pendine Sands, Carmarthen Bay, in a speedboat without safety equipment was abandoned last night.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jails report shows extent of crowding

Prisons in England and Wales are still overcrowded, with some cells meant for one inmate shared by three, according to a survey published today (Richard Ford writes). Eleven jails are said to be more than 50 per cent overcrowded, with Gloucester prison housing 195 prisoners at the end of March in cells designed for 107 inmates.

The survey carried out by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) shows that Chelmsford prison had 392 inmates in cells supposed to hold 232 prisoners. Birmingham 925 in cells meant for 567. Durham 939 in cells for 579. Leicester 322 in cells for 200, and Exeter 471 in cells for 293. Prisons at Shrewsbury, Canterbury, Dorchester, Leeds and Low Newton remand centre had overcrowding levels of more than 50 per cent. On the date the survey was carried out 1,882 prisoners were held in police or court cells because there was no room in jails.

Although a large prison building programme is intended to ease the difficulties facing the service, Home Office projections show the overall prison population rising to 57,000 by the year 2,000, an increase of 11,400 from 1991.

Laura 'critical'

Laura Davies, four, who underwent a double transplant operation 11 days ago to replace her liver and lower intestine, was in critical condition in the intensive care unit of Pittsburgh Children's Hospital yesterday (Ben Macintyre writes from New York). The hospital said that she was making progress and doctors remained optimistic. Doctors had feared for her life on Saturday after one of her lungs collapsed. She is now breathing with the help of a ventilator and is reported to have spent a restful night. Laura received a liver from a 17-month-old child from New Jersey. She returned to the operating room last Thursday for exploratory surgery when doctors suspected that her body was rejecting the transplanted organs. Dr Andreas Tzakis then performed a minor operation to prevent bleeding in her abdomen.

£61m zoo rescue plan

A £61 million rescue package, including plans for a rainforest, are to be put to officials trying to save doomed London Zoo. Radical proposals would see the 36-acre site in Regent's Park transformed into three varieties of rainforest containing apes and monkeys built under cover in a pavilion. It would also include a £20 million aquarium, with a coral reef and sharks, which visitors would be able to walk through in a plastic tunnel. Giraffes, lions and zebras would roam in reproduced savannah, if the plan wins the approval of the London Zoological Society, the Government and local planners. The scheme has been put forward by David Laing of the Laing building group, and designed by American architect Peter Chermayeff.

Electors say they were misled into giving proxy votes

BY PETER VICTOR

CORNISH political leaders and the returning officer for Cornwall have held talks on improving the proxy vote system after claims of a voting scandal in St Ives. Police are investigating allegations that dozens of people in St Ives were assigned proxies they did not want by the local Conservative association.

The claims are highlighted tonight in BBC's *Newsnight* which reports from St Ives and details claims by elderly residents that they were asked to sign forms which they did not understand or which they thought were requests for postal votes. The proxies are reported to have been used in the general election and in a closely contested seat in local government elections. In four cases highlighted in the programme, those whose votes were used were dead.

Sybil Ivey, 63, who is disabled and a Liberal supporter was told when she telephoned the council to ask for a postal vote that she could not have a vote because she had already been proxy voted. Mrs Ivey said that the experience was belittling and that she had never met the person who was listed as her proxy voter. She

said that her vote was cast for the Conservatives.

Nannie Burgen, 36, her mother, said that she, too, had lost her vote. When she got to the polling station she was told that her vote had been cast. Mrs Ivey wrote to the person listed as her proxy, Sandra Stephens, demanding to know what has happened to her vote.

The programme reports that a Tory council candidate was allowed to canvass residents at the Pine Trees retirement home. The managers of the home are reported to have believed that it was postal votes that were being organised. None of the 17 residents who signed the forms said they had any recollection of letting the candidate vote for them by proxy. They said it was not explained which party the candidate represented or what the forms were for.

Two of the residents were turned away at the polling station. The programme also alleges that a former employee of the candidate asked elderly people to sign proxy forms giving the Conservative association the right to vote on their behalf. He said that he

had gathered between 20 and 40 votes in this way. He said that none of the people who signed would have known they were giving away their vote. He said that he did it because his employer told him to.

Elizabeth Ellis, who has voted in elections for the past 50 years and is the former Labour mayoress of Droylsden in Greater Manchester, said that her voting card was torn up when she went to the polling station. She was told that her vote had been made by proxy. Mrs Ellis's daughter, Joyce Davenport, investigated the matter and got a telephone call from the candidate saying that her mother had agreed to fill in the form and to have a proxy vote but had become confused over the issue.

The BBC reports that of 133 people listed with proxy votes in the constituency, 50 did not know that they could not vote.

The candidate declined to comment to *Newsnight* but in a previous BBC interview denied that there was any malpractice in what had been done.

Conductor Groves dies at 77

SIR Charles Groves, the conductor, has died aged 77, four months after suffering a stroke. He was a former director of the Welsh and English National Operas, and was knighted in 1973. Last night Clive Gillinson, managing director of the London Symphony Orchestra, said: "He was one of the really grand men of British music and a great champion of new British works. He was one of those people who was a real gentleman as well as a wonderful musician."

Composer Oliver Knussen said: "He managed to get the respect of the players and the affection of performers. He had an exemplary attitude and track record with regard to contemporary music. His policy of presenting second performances as well as first was selfless and idealistic."

Michael Kaye, former managing director of the London Symphony Orchestra and former general administrator of the South Bank concert halls, said: "He was a very warm and gentle man. He was a great man who was humble and supportive of his soloists and he served the music. He was a modest and reliable man who will be much missed."

Obituary, page 17

Free skies accord hits turbulence

Profitable air route monopolies are not about to fall to British pressure in Luxembourg talks, Harvey Elliott reports

ATTEMPTS by the British and Dutch to secure a free market in air travel within Europe could be foiled today by countries seeking to protect their state airlines.

Transport ministers meet in Luxembourg to finalise an agreement to allow any member state airline to fly on any community route but fears are growing that Britain and Holland, who lead moves towards freedom of the skies, could be ambushed by France, Germany, Spain and other countries.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, has promised to make aviation liberalisation his priority, but has been warned by British Airways' chief executive Sir Colin Marshall that significant changes will have to be made before real progress can be made.

In a letter to Mr MacGregor Sir Colin said that new restrictions now being proposed "could seriously jeopardise the planned creation of a European free market in air transport."

His letter was delivered to the transport ministry just as Mr MacGregor was telling other airline chiefs that the new package now proposed "will mean an end to these restrictions and open the

way for much greater competition throughout the Community."

The warning appeared to come as a surprise to Mr MacGregor who last week said that the agreement would "create exciting new opportunities for UK airlines and it is up to you to see that you make the most of them."

Central to Britain's long-standing aviation policy is the right of any European airline to fly where it wants. It would enable, for example, British Airways to fly between Paris and Frankfurt, KLM between Munich and Madrid or Alitalia between London and Athens, if they so wished.

The French, especially, have objected and proposed a six-year transition period during which they would have the right to ban any foreign carrier from taking up such an option from French territory.

Britain had hoped to be able to claim that years of campaigning had worked or at least be in a position to reach agreement during Britain's forthcoming six-month council presidency. Now that is looking far less likely as opposition from other countries within the EC mounts.

Labour deal opposed



Cyril Smith and Liz Lynne: against any pact

Opposition to any attempts by Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, to seek a realignment of the left involving a deal with the Labour party broke into the open yesterday. Sir Cyril Smith, the former MP for Rochdale, said any pacts with Labour would split the party. "There would be mass resignations, probably by as many as a third of the members... I think it would virtually kill the party," he said on the BBC television programme *On the Record*. Sir Cyril's successor in the Rochdale seat, Liz Lynne, said on the same programme: "I was voted for by a number of people who were anti-Labour. I got a lot of the soft Conservative vote... and if I said I was in favour of any deal with Labour I would be selling them out." Mr Ashdown, who has written to party members suggesting that Liberal Democrats should reach beyond their own party, said yesterday that pacts were "not a practical proposition".

Heath 'cheerful'

Former Tory Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath was said to be in good spirits yesterday as he prepared for a "routine" but unspecified operation today. Sir Edward, 75, was admitted to an unidentified hospital on Saturday. The nature of which was also undisclosed. A member of his staff said: "He is in fine form and good spirits. He has been watching the cricket today." He said it is not yet known how long Sir Edward would remain in hospital but said the surgery was neither serious nor life-threatening. Sir Edward, the Father of the House of Commons and its longest-serving continuous member, has been in jovial form over the past few days. He intervened last week in the Commons exchanges over the Chancellor's announcement of the abolition of the National Economic Development Council.

Farmers' help line

A team of 12 Cumbrian farmers and farm wives trained by the Samaritans have opened a help line for farmers suffering depression, stress and anxiety because of the decline in agriculture (Ronald Faux writes). A spokesman for the Samaritans said: "Farming was first into the recession and looks like being the last out. Hill farmers in particular suffer isolation. They may spend a week without talking to another human being and they cannot share their problems with a sheep. The suicide rate among them is very high." The organisation is sponsoring the venture with the regional branch of the NFU which is concerned about the impact the recession, the progress of European law on agriculture and the problems these create.

Moby Dick to close

Formal notices announcing the closure of the £1.2 million West End musical *Moby Dick* have been posted and the show is to close on July 4. Cameron Mackintosh, the show's producer, has already told the cast he can no longer afford to keep it running. Six other West End shows have announced closure in the past two months. The recession is being blamed for poor ticket sales. *Moby Dick* got savage reviews when it opened in March and never recovered.

Tourist murder charge

A man has been formally charged with the murder of British tourist Julie Stott, police in New Orleans said yesterday. Lester Jones, in his late twenties, would probably be tried within the next few months, a spokesman said. Another man questioned over Miss Stott's death would not be charged with murder. A jury decided there was not enough evidence on which to indict Robert Jones, the spokesman added. Miss Stott, 27, a textile designer of Eccles, Greater Manchester, was shot in April as she left a restaurant in New Orleans' French quarter with her boyfriend, Peter Ellis.

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Police arrest 32 during solstice at Stonehenge

Nothing stirred at solstice's first light except the odd policeman getting to grips with a jubilant hippy. **Lin Jenkins reports**

AS FIRST light dawned at solstice over Stonehenge a curious ritual unfolded around the stones. Tall figures in dark clothing kept vigil in silent reverence as the heel stone should have cast its special shadow.

Periodically a few broke away and sprinted through the half light, returning with a jubilant hippy who had broken through their cordon. Where once druids and pagans performed their bizarre ceremonies, the ritual played out in the hours before dawn were equally extraordinary.

Police from six forces were on standby to assist Wiltshire as hundreds of policemen spent the night touring the periphery of the exclusion zone around the stones in an array of hired vans.

Few travellers even attempted to get near the monument. Of those who did 32 were arrested, 27 for breach of the peace, four under the Public Order Act and one for possession of drugs. Three were charged and the rest released. Wiltshire police said. The cost to the Wiltshire ratepayer is estimated to be in the region of £250,000. There

have been calls from many quarters that English Heritage should stop closing the site at solstice. A group of 15 archaeologists from London University attempted to walk to Stonehenge yesterday morning to make their point. They, too, were turned away at the edge of the four mile exclusion zone.

George Firsoff, of the Campaign for Pagan and Druidic Rights at Stonehenge, said the continued closure destroys Stonehenge's main feature, which is simply that it has long been used for ritual gatherings. He said there is no real threat of the site being damaged by another festival like those held during the early 1980s. English Heritage is adamant that the site is in danger from travellers who would hold a festival or simply camp alongside the A303 for a few days in June.

Dirk Aldous, deputy chief constable of Wiltshire, hopes that the police operation could be reduced in future. But events at Castle Morton, where travellers massed illegally and held a festival last month, suggested to him that there might be an assault on Stonehenge this year, especially since a festival is being held next week at Pilton in the neighbouring county.

"This approach seems to be successful. We are trying to avoid a confrontation. We would like to see the operation scaled down but any plans to do so were thrown into disarray by the events of a couple of weeks ago," he said.

He baulks at the suggestion that the problem could be solved by giving the travellers a permanent site in the area. Having visited a site near Copenhagen established 20 years ago for travellers, hippies and drop outs, he believes such a place would be a centre for lawlessness.

"That it is a centre for the drug distribution network and a haven for fugitives from the law. The one in Denmark has simply become a festering sore in the side of Copenhagen and I do not believe we could do any better here."

Yesterday there was no evidence, nor had there been in the few years previously, of any attempt to re-establish the festival on the site first banned in 1985. The police operation appeared out of proportion with the threat. Most of the travellers in laybys and surrounding roads said they had no intention of heading for the stones. Few held any beliefs which suggested Stonehenge was anything more significant than a charming wonder.

For the police it was a blessing. "The night passed quietly and there was very little trouble," a police spokesman said. "The Wiltshire ratepayers have to bear the cost but from past experience it appears they are prepared to do so rather than have a festival at Stonehenge." Stonehenge will re-open to visitors this afternoon when the police operation ends.

Leading article, page 15



Head start: Paula Hayward, 24, awaits the off



All ears: assorted gear for the cyclists on the start line for the Brighton run

Cyclist dies on charity run

A CYCLIST collapsed and died from a suspected heart attack yesterday less than half-way through the annual London to Brighton cycle ride in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

The man, thought to be in his mid-40s, fell from his bike on the A25 at Church Hill, Nutfield, Surrey. A medical crew tried to resuscitate at the scene but he was declared dead at the East Surrey Hospital.

More than 27,000 cyclists made the 58 mile journey in what the organisers say is the biggest charity cycle ride in the world. They ranged from serious to everyday riders, including some in fancy dress and others riding vintage machines.

The British Heart Foundation hopes the event will raise more than last year's £1.1 million for heart research. Some of the riders were former heart patients.

Minister 'convicted' of flouting green laws

By Nicholas Watt

JOHN MacGregor, the Transport Secretary, was yesterday put on trial and found guilty of flouting EC environmental laws by 700 people protesting against the planned extension of the M3 through Twyford Down in Hampshire. To shouts of "off with his head", three "judges" wearing wigs and gowns, accused Mr MacGregor of failing to carry out an environmental impact assessment and of putting cars before the planet.

The mock trial, held in the centre of Winchester by the statue of King Alfred, followed a protest march past Twyford Down. The activists, who came from as far afield as London and Dorset, marched into Winchester behind a bagpiper. They carried banners denouncing the planned cutting through the down.

The protesters want the government to build a tunnel under the down, which is a site of special scientific interest, instead of a 400ft wide and 100ft deep cutting. The government says that would increase its cost and it has started excavating the site.

Jonathan Porritt, the environmentalist, told the crowd: "We have to make Twyford Down the symbol of the heinous vandalism that the government is perpetrating against the environment. We have to say that this is a line, this is a point beyond which we will not be pushed."

Mourners drink pub dry

By Jenny Knight

IRISH travellers drank a pub dry after a funeral wake for a 77-year-old grandmother took them on a drinking session across Britain.

The grandmother's last request was that her coffin should stop at her six favourite pubs in England before her burial in Ireland. The wake began at 8.30am at a pub in Peterborough and ended at the Bull Inn at Haverfordwest, Dyfed, where Herbie John, the landlord, ran out of beer and lager.

Then the hearse, two Daimler limousines and 15 private cars left to catch the 3am ferry for Ireland at Fishguard.

Mr John, 56, said yesterday: "I had to send people round other local pubs to get extra drink. The women were solemn and crying but the men had a really good drink. They were well gone by the time they arrived here and they must have had a gallon each at the Bull."

"They were a lovely bunch of people. They drank a huge amount but they could hold their drink and there was no rowdiness. There was no singing because it was a solemn occasion."

The mourners, all smartly dressed in black, told Mr John that the old lady had had a warm welcome in the Bull when she spent three months in the area about ten years ago.

Rare birds make their UK debut

By John Young

TWO birds never recorded in Britain before have recently been sighted, according to *Birding World*, the magazine of the Bird Information Service. The lesser short-toed lark was spotted at Portland Bill, Dorset, and the spectacled warbler was seen at Filey, North Yorkshire.

They are among a record number of unexpected bird visitors waited in on warm winds from southern and eastern Europe. Among them was a pine grosbeak, which drew twitchers to the Shetland Islands last month.

The most spectacular influx consisted of an estimated 90 red-footed falcons, more than twice the largest previously recorded total of 42, in 1973. Red-throated pipits, which drifted off course while migrating north, also arrived in record numbers: 34, twice the previous highest annual total of 17 in 1975.

More white-winged black terns appeared in one day than in any previous spring, while there were also exceptional numbers of cattle egrets, grey-headed wagtails and interine warblers.



The pine grosbeak

Taxmen and councils keep eye on Wimbledon traders

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

MERTON Borough Council will be monitoring the flourishing black economy in selling food and drink and unofficial souvenirs for any offences against health and trade regulations when the Wimbledon championships begin today.

As Michael Stich, the reigning men's champion from Germany and No 3 seed, begins his defence on the centre court at 2pm against Stefano Pescosolido of Italy, local council inspectors will already be patrolling the streets to see if regulations are being breached. The Inland Revenue has said that a special squad will be checking on local residents, who rent their homes or parking spaces or sell refreshments from their gardens, to make certain that earnings are declared on tax returns.

A spokesman for the London Borough of Merton said: "We welcome the fact that people do set up stalls or rent properties. It adds to the atmosphere of the for-

night and schools, churches and clubs have found that it can be a significant fundraiser.

"However, our standards officers will be inspecting goods and will be particularly alert to anyone who sells souvenirs claiming them to be official when they are not. Our officers have the power to close down such stalls immediately if they breach the Trade Descriptions Act." Scores of stalls are erected in the streets and gardens surrounding the All-England Club for the championships. Owners have to hold a licence if they trade on the streets but are exempt if they use their own property.

Six health officers will be also be touring the area, not only examining the food stalls outside the club but also the facilities inside the ground, where caterers will sell 23 tons of strawberries, 110,000 ice-creams and 190,000 sandwiches during the fortnight. The success of

the championships has led many local residents to rent their homes to leading players or overseas visitors, sometimes for £1,000 a week, and use the money to finance their holidays abroad.

A special squad of the Schedule D compliance unit of the Inland Revenue has been scrutinising newspaper advertisements and estate agents' windows for possible targets, not only for Wimbledon but also for Ascot, Henley and Cowes, the other main events of the English summer sporting season.

Anyone who does not declare earnings will be liable to repay the money due, plus interest, and also face penalties of up to 100 per cent of the amount they did not disclose.

The dry weather is set to continue until at least Thursday, with only the risk of isolated showers.

Preview, page 27
Wimbledon Supplement

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STERRY
COMMUNICATIONS

MoD still worried by missile threat

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Ministry of Defence is considering whether Britain should deploy a weapon system to protect the country from a limited ballistic missile attack. A decision on whether such a system would be cost effective is expected within the next few months, a senior official engaged in the study says.

The ministry is focusing on a system that would be based on improved early warning airborne sensors and medium-range missile defences. "This is what we are actively looking at for the future," the official said.

The study indicates an evolution in the way officials have regarded missile defences and, in particular, the American Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) research programme which has absorbed more than \$24 billion since it began in March 1983.

The senior ministry official admitted that former President Reagan's original "Star Wars" concept, which envisaged a protective shield against a mass nuclear attack, was regarded in Britain as "totally unfeasible". Al-

though British companies won several SDI contracts, the defence ministry never showed much enthusiasm for the concept.

"We felt such a system would be destabilising if deployed because the then Soviet Union would have tried to counter it by increasing its arsenal of strategic missiles," the official said.

The ending of the Cold War and the experience of the Gulf war, in which President Saddam Hussein launched ballistic Scud missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia, forced a change of mind.

The official said that a defence system could be justified on the basis of three potential sources of ballistic missile threat. Still the most significant potential threat, he said, was posed by the arsenal of strategic and tactical systems held by Russia.

Britain's nuclear deterrent, represented by Polaris and, from 1995, by Trident, would remain the principal insurance against a change to a regime in Moscow that was hostile to the West. A defence system would act as an addi-

tional deterrent. The two other threats were hostile Third World countries acquiring ballistic missiles with nuclear, biological or chemical warheads, and an irrational commander of a strategic missile submarine or land system silo field who ordered an unauthorised launch of a nuclear missile.

The official considered an unauthorised missile launch as a small risk. However, the potential threat from Third World countries with nuclear capability was growing and it was against this scenario that ministry officials were examining options for deploying an anti-ballistic missile defence system.

Last week President Bush and Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader, agreed at the Washington summit to reduce strategic warheads to between 3,000 and 3,500 and to consider a joint anti-ballistic missile defence programme, based on the American GPALS system, or global protection against limited strikes. GPALS is the latest manifestation of the SDI research project.



Stepping out: Glenda Jackson, Hampstead's Labour MP, and the model Marie Helvin, right, in a sponsored Hampstead stroll for AIDS charities

Britain to fight EC jobs ban on the over-40s

The employment minister has been appalled to find that jobs with the EC have a low age limit, Robin Oakley reports

BRITAIN is to use its presidency of the European Community to strike a blow for the over-40s.

Michael Forsyth, minister of state for employment, has discovered that, if you want to be anything but a bottle-washer to bureaucracy at the Brussels headquarters of the Commission, it is no use applying if you are over 35.

An advertisement for 140 English language typists, for example, insists that applicants must be a national of an EC state, must have fulfilled any obligations for national service and "must have been born before 20 February 1974 and after 21 February 1956". In other words, those over 36 need not apply.

Almost identical wording applies to posts as servers or dishwashers in the Commission cafeteria at 64,180 Belgian francs per month, and the same rule applies to jobs as administrative assistants or interpreters.

For those posts the promotional literature states: "the commission is an equal opportunities employer and particularly welcomes applications from women". But its idea of equality, it seems, does not apply to those over 40.

There are some small exceptions. Age limits can be extended by three years for the disabled and by the length of national service for those who live in countries with conscription. You can add on a year if you have been unemployed while looking after a child of under school age, but again only up to a maximum of three years. If you qualify under all three categories the maximum age limit increase is five years.

The message from the Community is: if you are over

41, in no circumstances do we want to employ you.

Mr Forsyth says: "It is astonishing that the European Commission should be one of the worst practitioners of ageism. The practice is not only undesirable but stupid. It diminishes the supply of talent to the economy throughout the Community."

Ministers intend to act during the British presidency to highlight and seek to reverse the discrimination against those in their 40s and 50s. Mr Forsyth has persuaded the prime minister to put ageism on the agenda and Britain will stage "anti-discrimination events" during its presidency designed to bring a blush to Brussels cheeks. The average age of the present 17-member EC Commission was 53 when the present team took office in 1989. M Jacques Delors, the commission's president, will be 67 on July 20 and, as his friends and enemies agree, is a workaholic in excellent health. Mr Antonio Cardoso e Cunha, the Portuguese commissioner in charge of the EC staff, is 58. Britain's senior commissioner Sir Leon Brittan is a mere 52.



Forsyth: determined to end age discrimination

Lure of Europe causes worries

BY OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

GILES RADICE, a former Labour frontbencher, predicts that Britain's most talented politicians will be drawn to the Continent as the European Parliament "inevitably" increases in power and influence.

In *Offshore: Britain and the European Idea*, to be published this week by I B Tauris, he says growing power for the parliament will "encourage many of the ablest and most ambitious politicians to make a career in Europe", and will lead to British political parties building common political platforms with sister parties on the Continent.

Another volume published today by the Institute for Public Policy Research, a think tank closely linked to the Labour party, also predicts the development of Europe-wide political parties and a further

transfer of power to the parliament in Strasbourg.

Donald Sassoon, reader in history at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London University, argues in his contribution that since Europe has agreed on convergence targets for economic and monetary union, the left across Europe should combine to insist on convergence targets being set for regional growth, levels of unemployment, social benefits, discrimination legislation and working conditions.

Because national democratic parties will fight for national objectives more powers should be transferred to the European parliament, he says. There should then be European elections held on the same day, according to the same rules by "Euro-parties", with trans-national candidatures encouraged.

Lib-Dems 'biggest election bullies'

BULLYING by political parties and the refusal of politicians to answer probing questions are highlighted today in a report on difficulties reporters faced covering the election.

In a foreword to the report, Peter Preston, chairman of the British executive of the International Press Institute and editor of *The Guardian*, said the campaign was "often frustrating, but not as nasty or bullying as many reporters had feared".

He also pointed to "increasing management of both time and available personnel by parties, and the cutting off of any prospect of a supplementary question. And then there is bullying, from which, interestingly, the Liberal Democrats seem to emerge with least credit."

Richard Tait, editor of *Channel 4 News*, said in the report that parties' attempts to put unfair conditions on interviews led to a number of differences of opinion with all the parties. On one occasion, the Liberal Democrats wanted "as a new condition of Paddy Ashdown appearing, an assurance that the programme would lead on their manifesto rather than Labour's budget. This we were not prepared to do," Carol Walker, a BBC television reporter, said.

that guidelines issued to reporters by the Lib-Dems, specifying that Mr Ashdown was not to be "doorstepped" for interviews, were withdrawn only after strong protests.

Michael Brunson, political editor of ITN, said supplementary questions were discouraged at Labour and Tory press conferences. "Not allowing supplementaries meant Labour spokespeople could get away with anodyne answers. The Tory press conferences were more relaxed, but here again, a considerable amount of time was used up reading out statements."

Robin Oakley, political editor of *The Times*, said: "The one time John Major faced any difficulty was when *The Independent*, *The Times* and the BBC all pursued the same question on the overall tax burden. Organised gang bangs are not an attractive proposition but if we all continue to pursue our own separate agendas on these occasions, constantly switching subjects, the politicians will continue to have an easy ride."

Reporters on Scotland's *Herald* newspaper condemned a Tory decision to demand personal details which they said could have ended up in the hands of M15 - for press conference passes.

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APR	11.8%	11.8%
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Total Amount Payable**	£11,240.12	£12,364.16

**Total amount payable includes £35 Document Fee payable with first monthly instalment.



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ployment minister has been find that jobs with the EC have e limit. Robin Oakley reports

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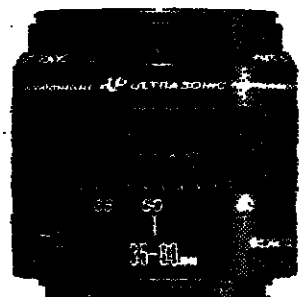
By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

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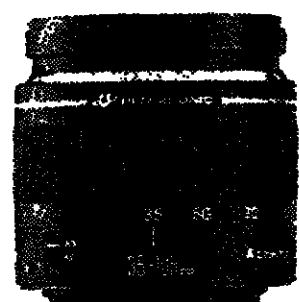
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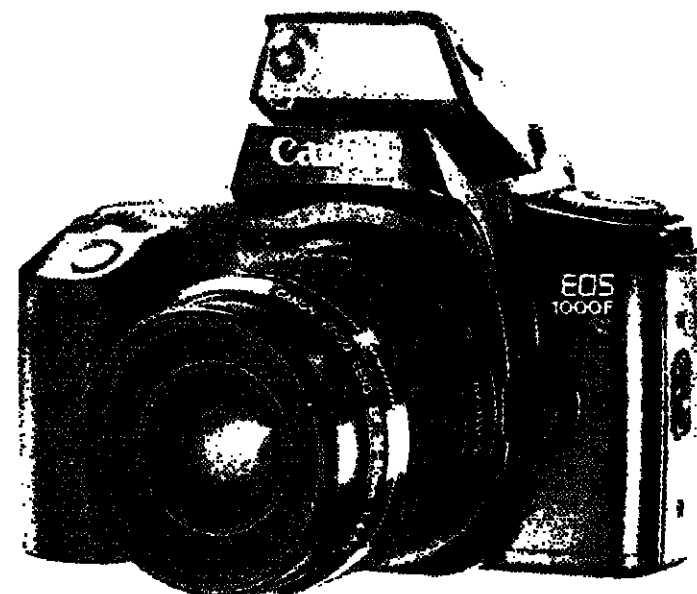
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Action urged to halt big rise in homeless

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE total of homeless families in London will rise by 30,000 to 75,000 by the middle of 1995 if new measures are not taken to house them, according to a joint report by the Conservative and Labour associations representing the capital's borough councils.

The figure, which amounts to 200,000 individuals, takes no account of single people, couples without children and people sleeping rough, none of whom councils are obliged to house.

At present there are 44,600 families in temporary accommodation, representing 112,000 people. More than 8,800 families are in bed and breakfast premises and the total bill for housing the homeless in London will be £196 million this year.

Numbers have risen sharply since last year when 28,500 families were in temporary accommodation at a cost of £132 million. The report predicts that by 1995 the cost will have risen to £500 million a year. Moving homeless families into permanent accommodation would halve the costs, it says.

Pete Challis, chairman of the housing committee of the Association of London Authorities (ALA) said that rising numbers of people needing help were forcing up costs in spite of efforts by boroughs to keep bed and breakfast spending down.

He also praised mortgage lenders who had leased councils some of the 27,000 homes repossessed in London last year but said more now needed to be done to allow councils to offer families permanent homes.

"Councils have succeeded in keeping costs down and raising the standards of temporary accommodation for the homeless. Now it is the government's turn to do something positive."

"We are asking them to allow us to provide more permanent accommodation to avoid having nearly 200,000 people in costly temporary homes by the middle of the decade."

The report shows that those accepted as homeless spent an average of 11 months in temporary accommodation before being found a perma-

nent home. Larger families took longer to house, seven per cent of families waiting more than two years.

The report has been sent to Sir George Young, the housing minister. The environment department said the government was already spending £24 billion over the next three years to build 120,000 homes for rent.

Last year it spent £4.5 million helping voluntary bodies tackle the problem of people sleeping rough in London and this year the figure would rise to £6 million. Schemes were being piloted to bring empty private housing into use for homeless families.

"There are now more homes per head of population than ever before," a spokesman said. "The total housing stock in England is up by nearly two million since 1979."

Copies of the report, produced jointly by the Labour-controlled ALA and the Conservative-led London Boroughs Association, can be obtained from the ALA, 36 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9JF.



Davis and Minnelli drawn by Richard Wilson

A star remembered

By PETER VICTOR

GUESTS at a charity tribute to the late Sammy Davis Junior will be offered copies of a limited edition book of 20 caricatures of the entertainer by leading British cartoonists including Richard Wilson of *The Times*. The tribute tomorrow night at the Albert Hall, London, attended by the Princess of

Wales, will be in aid of the Royal Marsden Cancer Appeal.

Liza Minnelli, who will take part in the tribute, said it would be about the life of Sammy Davis and what he taught her. "He taught me to say, 'Yes, I can'. By that I mean his determination and his independence."



Liza Minnelli in London yesterday: "He taught me determination"

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Bar backs set legal aid fees

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADING members of the Bar have endorsed a radical change in policy on legal aid which involves accepting the principle of set or standard fees for 99 per cent of crown court work.

More than 100 barristers, including the Bar chairman, Gareth Williams, QC, endorsed the new policy at a meeting on Saturday which is likely to be approved by the Bar Council next month.

The decision to adopt the principle of standard fees and push for a massive extension of their use marks a break with policy for the past decade. Standard fees, with bands for complexity and kinds of work, will be paid at once instead of the present cumbersome system in which barristers are paid after a case on the basis of a bill they submit for assessment.

At present standard fees apply only to cases lasting up to three days in the crown court. The proposals will extend to cases lasting up to four weeks.

Mr Williams said the scheme would mean better use of public funds and would help defence lawyers. "There will be the advantage of continuity, promptness of payment and efficiency in administration."

He said the scheme would affect pre-trial work, advice

and case conferences. If this pre-court work was properly paid, it would help to alleviate the difficulty of trials collapsing at the last minute because of a change of plea, he added.

James Munby, QC, said: "There is now a growing view that standard fees should be paid for most cases, both criminal and civil."

The move by the Bar, which will be welcomed by the Lord Chancellor's department, comes at a time when the Law Society is still locked in bitter dispute with the department over proposals for standard fees in the magistrates' courts.

A report on crown court efficiency last week by a Bar working party under Robert Seabrook QC made it clear that standard fees offer barristers distinct advantages.

Standard fees will mean prompt payment within hours or days of a case finishing instead of up to one year later. They will enable barristers to budget and plan cash-flow, make big savings in administrative costs and lead to greater efficiency in the courts.

In return for a move to standard fees, the Bar will want proper rates of pay related to the kind of work, one of the main sticking points in the proposals for magistrates' courts being fought.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today: Total missing from Maxwell pension fund and Mirror Group Newspapers account expected to be published. Balance of payments and trade figures for May. Union of Democratic Mineworkers presents privatisation plan. Wimbledon fortnight opens.

Tomorrow: Announcement by ministers of environment initiatives to improve connections between local and central government. Independent King's Fund report on future of London hospitals. Lords debate national identity card scheme.

Wednesday: Lloyd's results for 1989 published, expected to show worst ever losses of £2 billion. Environment secretary Michael Howard launches government biodiversity initiative. Results of National Children's Home survey expected to be critical. Civil war exhibition opens at National Army Museum, London.

Thursday: MPs debate Rio conference. Deadline for Midland Bank investors to decide on takeover offer from Hongkong and Shanghai bank. National awards for services to children presented by Duchess of Kent, London.

Friday: Labour leadership candidates at a meeting called by Tribune and Labour Co-ordinating Committee. Glastonbury Festival begins. European championship soccer final.

Saturday: End of steel making at Ravenscraig and Hunterston. Methodist conference. Newcastle.

Sunday: National Music Day, with national and regional events. International Whaling Conference opens. Glasgow. Finals of National Scrabble Championship, London.

Enquiry into oil rig blast

Four oilmen were recovering in hospital yesterday as an investigation began into a pipeline blast on the newest oil platform in the North Sea.

The men were changing a valve on BP's Miller platform 160 miles northeast of Aberdeen, which went into production two weeks ago. They are thought to have been struck when a pipe ruptured after a pressure build up.

BP said that no oil or gas had been involved and that the company has begun an investigation.

Firebomb charge

Eamonn O'Donnell, 37, a student at Bradford and Ilkley Community College, is to appear before Leeds magistrates today charged with planting two firebombs at Marks & Spencer in Leeds last Wednesday.

Coded message

Clergy in Coventry are to mark precious chalices and other artefacts with the postcodes of their churches to discourage thieves.

Sobering act

Thieves who took a briefcase from a dentist in Bishop's Cleeve, Hertfordshire, returned it untouched the next day with a letter of apology, explaining they were unemployed and drunk at the time.

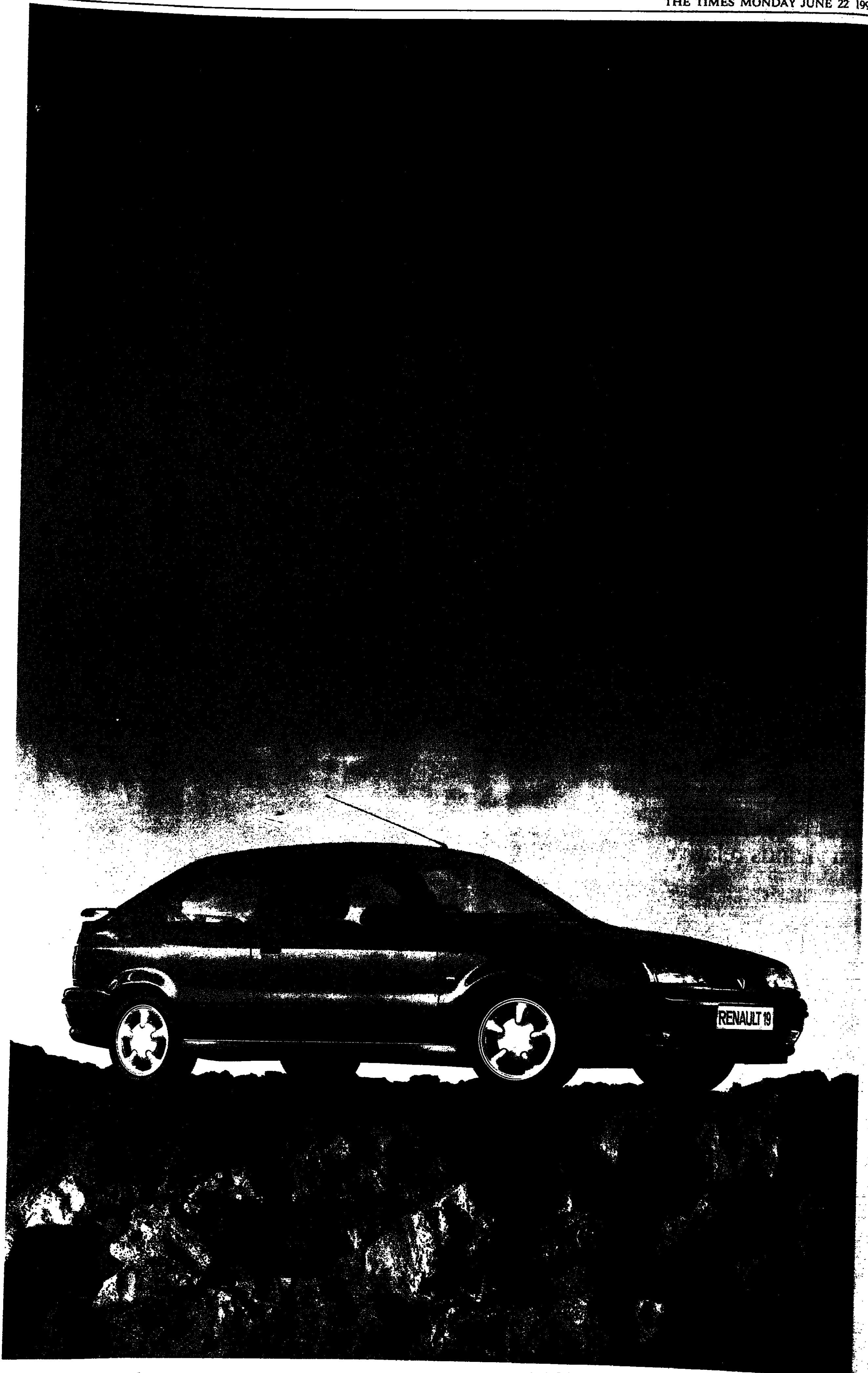
Bond winners

Weekly premium bond prize winners are £100,000, number YCL 754232, who lives in Merton, London (value of holding £8,255); £50,000, 31AN 486626, Dorset (£8,030); £25,000, 20YN 550602, East Sussex (£1,600).

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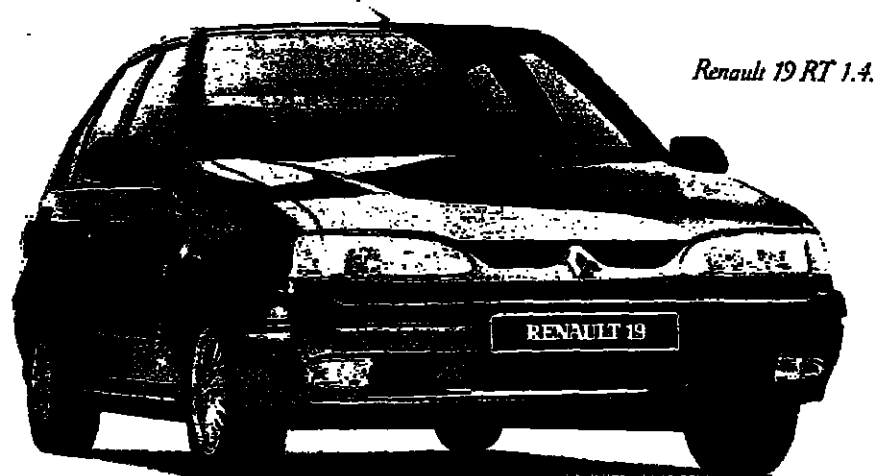
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'Energy' to the powerful Turbo Diesel and ultra-high performance 137 bhp 16 Valve.

Power assisted steering, and a five speed gearbox are standard on most versions, then there's the tempting idea of ABS brakes as a further option.

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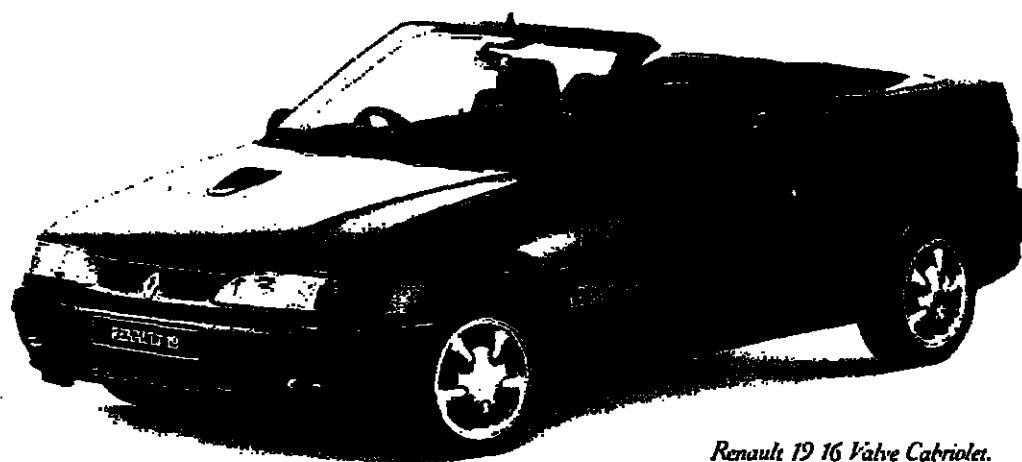
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THE NEW RENAULT 19



Prague: the Czech capital, with St Vitus Cathedral above the River Vltava

Prague deputies to finalise separation

FROM ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

CZECHOSLOVAKIA is dead. The Czechoslovak parliament meets today to approve a federal government that has been designed specifically to dismantle the federal state. The deputies, in other words, are being asked to write their own political suicide note.

The reasonable assumption that Czechoslovakia, welded together in 1918, could be kept intact has crumbled in a brief fortnight.

THE DIVORCE

night of post-election politicking. The divorce has been so rapid that outsiders have been unable to agree whether it represents a tragedy — the first step perhaps in the balkanisation of Central Europe — or is an entirely natural and unavoidable process. The European Community seems undecided, although it will certainly have to rethink its association agreement signed with the federal state.

The rush to separate is the result of the shift in the political balance that has made Vladimir Meciar not

only the Slovak leader but also the most important figure on the federal scene. The assembly session today shows clearly why Czechoslovakia has accelerated towards divorce. Mr Meciar's Movement for a Democratic Slovakia and his Slovak allies can block not only the re-election of Vaclav Havel as federal president but also any meaningful economic reform.

Mr Meciar, with the large left-wing blocks in the parliamentary assembly, could reverse the process of market reform. Therefore Vaclav Klaus, the architect of the Czechoslovak privatisation programme and the key Czech politician, was confronted with a choice: he could abandon the idea of a federal Czechoslovakia or he could ditch his shock therapy reforms. Apparently he has opted for an end to the federal state.

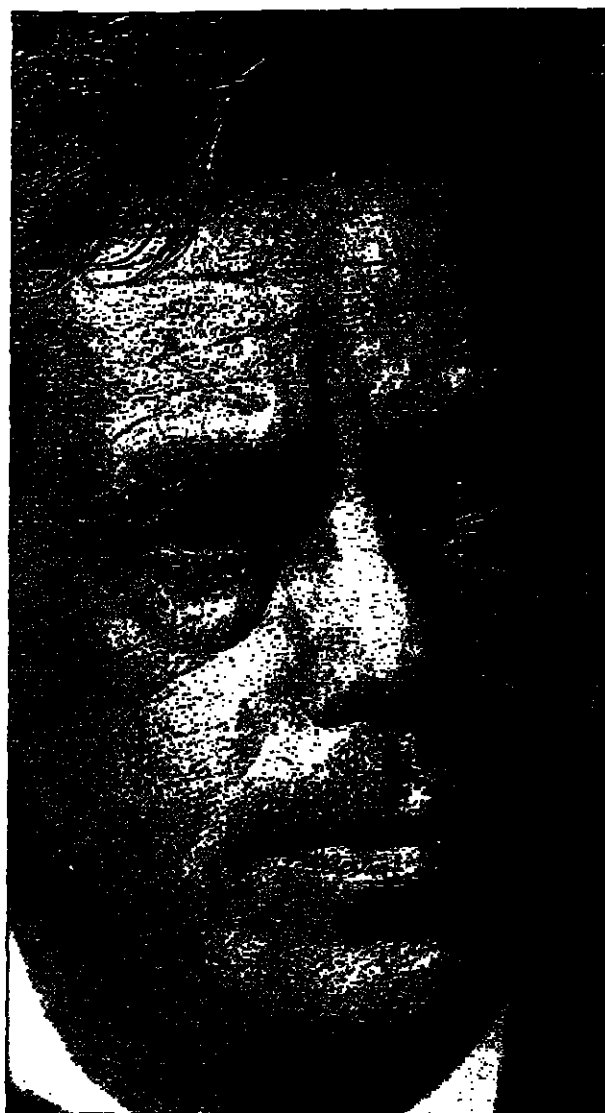
Perhaps to some degree Mr Klaus's position was based on bluff, the hope that Slovaks facing the withdrawal of generous federal subsidies would be jolted back into harness with

Prague. Now the time for bluffing has passed.

The federal government comprises five Czech and five Slovak ministers and will be balanced precisely: if the interior minister is a Slovak, then the defence minister will be a Czech. The plan is that this government will rule until a referendum is held in Slovakia and will then unravel the federal state. According to the constitution, the federation is supposed to continue its activities for one more year after a secession vote.

Mr Meciar, therefore, reckons that the federal government has about 18 months of life and could even survive longer if a confederation emerges. Mr Klaus does not like that idea; the longer the Slovaks have an impact on Czech economic policy, the more endangered will be Mr Klaus's radical reform. He is working therefore on a plan that would dissolve Czechoslovakia by means of a mutual treaty.

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Leading article, page 15



Caught in the middle: Havel branded the accord to divide the federation as too vague

Havel condemns break-up decision

FROM GERARD DAVIES IN PRAGUE

REFERENDUM CALL

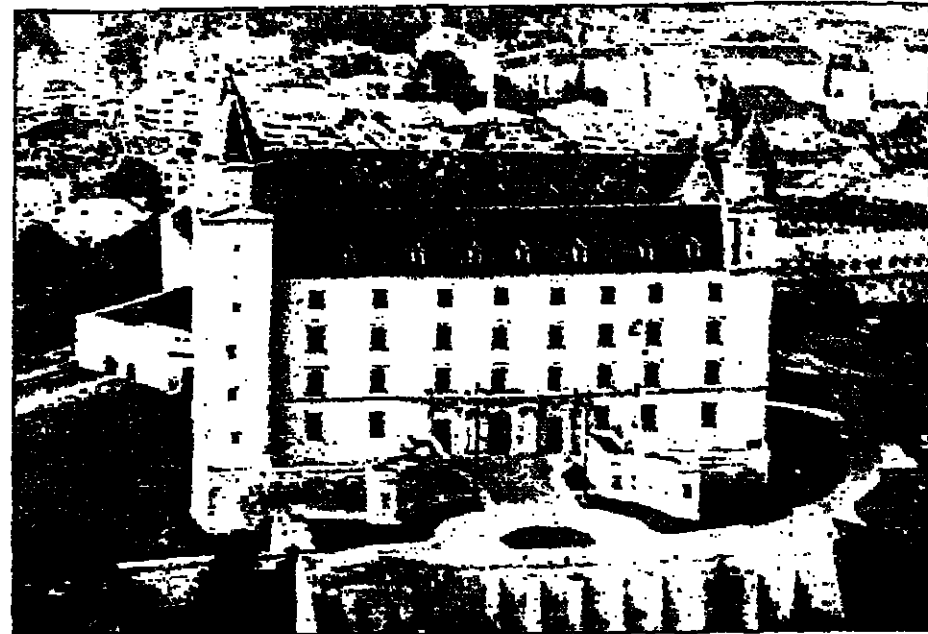
PRESIDENT Havel yesterday condemned the decision of rival Czech and Slovak leaders to file for divorce, urging them to hold a referendum on the future of the federation.

The two delegations effectively decided to end the 74-year-old Czechoslovak union after the fourth round of disastrous talks collapsed after 12 hours.

President Havel, in his regular Sunday broadcast from his summer palace, expressed concern that the

agreement was too vague. "Czechoslovakia is not threatened with a danger of collapse of the state administration, anarchy or constitutional political crisis."

"But there exists the possibility of an unconstitutional way of leaving the federation. The formulation is vague. It acknowledges a different way of dividing the country than by referendum, which is so far the only constitutional way in which one state can be split up into two parts."



Bratislava: the Slovak capital on the Danube, with the castle in the centre

Trade war threatened as federation nears its end

BY ROGER BOYES AND GERARD DAVIES

"SIGNING this made my heart bleed," Vaclav Klaus, the staunch federalist and Czech leader, sighed when he emerged tired and depressed from the hotel conference room in the Slovak capital, Bratislava, early on Saturday before the decree was read out by Vladimir Meciar.

Yesterday Mr Klaus added: "We discussed dozens and dozens of ideas in the course of these talks. The agreement we have concluded is simply the highest common denominator of what we could agree on." The EC is watching the split. João de Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese foreign minister whose country holds the European Community's rotating presidency, described the news as "very bad", declaring: "I think they will regret it." British officials struck a more sympathetic note, saying that it was a problem for the Czech and Slovak leaders.

There is still some heavy bargaining ahead, above all on the federal budget, dividing up the federal debt and the future of the army. Plainly Slovakia wants to keep federal subsidies for its old, inefficient factories

for as long as possible. But Czechoslovakia is splitting up in a far more orderly way

THE WAY AHEAD

than Yugoslavia or the Soviet Union. There seems to be no possibility of war. A trade war, however, cannot be ruled out because Slovaks, for example, are determined that Czechs should pay world market prices for their semi-finished metal goods. The 600,000-strong Hungarian minority in Slovakia also has to be given credible guarantees.

Under intelligent and open government Slovakia would not be doomed to economic obscurity. The proximity of western Slovakia to an Austria that is

soon to be a member of the European Community will bring useful bounty, if properly exploited.

An independent Slovak foreign ministry could become an aggressive salesman for central Slovakia's arms factories, unlike Prague, which regards them as something of an embarrassment.

Slovakia has a small population — fewer than five million — but the people are well educated and adaptable. The key issue is thus whether Mr Meciar will become a captive of his vague election slogans, his left-leaning anti-privatisation policies, and anti-Czech, anti-Hungarian tub-thumping, or whether he can keep the road open to Western Europe.



Britain to make Yugoslav peace its EC priority

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS UNITED Nations peacekeepers in Sarajevo demanded yesterday that a ceasefire should be honoured for 48 hours, so that the airport could reopen for an emergency airlift to civilians in the Bosnian capital, Britain began preparations to make brokering peace its priority when it takes over the presidency of the European Community next month.

The faltering peace process will be transferred from Lisbon to London, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, will visit Yugoslavia within a few weeks. However, Sarajevo radio said shelling and street fighting were continuing early yesterday. "There is no ceasefire, just continuous heavy fire," it said.

After weeks of fighting in the capital, which has been under siege for two and a half months, Bosnia-Herzegovina's presidency formally declared a state of war in the former Yugoslav republic at the weekend, triggering automatic mobilisation of territorial defence reserves.

General Lewis MacKenzie, chief negotiator of the UN Protection Force, said he was "knocking on wood and crossing my fingers" that his call for a ceasefire would be respected by Serbian forces and Muslim-Croat paramilitary groups. He said the force's 80 military observers were "all set and ready to go" if fighting abated sufficiently to allow them to take over the airport from Serbian forces. If that step could be completed, the peacekeepers would then advise UN headquarters in New York that 1,000 Canadian troops should be sent to secure the airfield.

Warfare continued in other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Croatia. Zagreb radio said there were sporadic artillery attacks in the ports of Dubrovnik and Sibenik.

Beginning next month, the Community's Yugoslav peace process, headed by Lord Carrington, will report directly to London. All the leading diplomats will be kept on, including Robert Badinter, the French legal adviser who drew up the minority rights criteria for EC recognition of

former Yugoslav republics. José Cutileiro, the Portuguese special negotiator on Bosnia, and of course Lord Carrington, the former foreign secretary and Nato secretary-general, who has spearheaded Europe's diplomatic efforts for the past nine months. British diplomats will replace the Portuguese team in the EC presidency support roles.

In addition, Britain will appoint a special ambassador to head the EC monitoring mission. Ramsay Melhuish, a former ambassador in Bangkok and Kuwait and high commissioner in Harare, will take over from the Portuguese. To support him, Britain will send an extra 40 monitors — ten from the Foreign Office and 30 from the defence ministry — who will join the 15 British monitors already in Yugoslavia.

Mr Hurd believes that Britain must make a big effort to keep the peace process alive. There is a feeling in London that the Portuguese were unable to bring enough weight and resources to the issue, and that the EC peace effort generally has been a question of too little too late.



Paris police await farm protesters

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AS CONVOYS of French farmers began converging on Paris yesterday to take part in a proposed blockade to protest at government agricultural policy, riot squads were put on full alert along their routes.

If the farmers press ahead with their plan to paralyse access roads around the capital tomorrow morning, a confrontation may be unavoidable on the eve of the special parliamentary session at Versailles to adopt constitutional revisions allowing France to ratify the Maastricht treaty.

The timing of the protests could hardly be worse for President Mitterrand. Getting the constitutional revisions agreed has been tricky enough, and the referendum is still to come. The last thing he needs is television images of farmers and police clashing outside Paris.

Faster integration sought by France and Delors

Major faces treaty pressure at Lisbon

JOHN Major is under threat of being outmanoeuvred at the European Community summit in Lisbon this week by an alliance of governments and the European Commission seeking to strengthen the Maastricht treaty on political and economic union before the document is even ratified.

Nine EC leaders will arrive in Lisbon on Thursday confident that they can ratify the treaty by the end of this year; a tenth, the Irish Republic, voted to ratify last week. The leaders of this EC majority are mounting a counter-attack against the hesitation over the treaty being shown by Britain and Denmark.

Led by France and the Commission, this group will support the devolving of EC powers to national governments under the principle of "subsidiarity" and welcome the start of talks with the next group of countries eager to join the EC. These changes will be designed to strengthen and accelerate EC integration. According to documents seen by *The Times*, Mr Major will be faced in Lisbon with the following proposals developed by the Commission, headed by Jacques Delors, and by the Benelux countries:
□ New members of the EC should be asked to sign up to every commitment in the Maastricht treaty. Talks on allowing in Austria, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland and perhaps Norway will not begin until Maastricht has

A powerful counterattack against Britain and Denmark over the Maastricht treaty is being waged in the EC, writes George Brock in Brussels

been ratified by all 12 states and until the EC's new five-year budget is agreed.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, refused to agree to these conditions at an EC foreign ministers' meeting in Luxembourg on Saturday, but received little support. If ten states have ratified Maastricht by the end of this year, Britain and Denmark risk being accused of blocking the applications of new members which they have championed.

□ The Community's majority voting system should be changed to lower the proportion of votes necessary to achieve a binding decision. Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands, backed by the commission, suggest that the threshold of votes necessary to reach a "qualified majority" would be unaltered while incoming states would raise the total number of weighted votes.

□ No deadline should be set for the close of negotiations with the first group of candidate countries. Britain has argued that the Scandinavian and Alpine states can be squeezed in a year before the Community next revises its constitution in 1996.

□ Applicant countries which



Brittan: challenge on competition rules

are neutral would be asked to abandon neutrality and make "firm and precise" commitments to a future EC army.

Frans Andriessen, the EC's external affairs commissioner, proposed more radical ideas to last week's meeting of the commission but was advised that the governments could not afford to support bringing forward the date for the next round of talks on political union. But commission officials leaked an outline of Mr Andriessen's ideas to emphasise that these ideas had only been withdrawn temporarily. "Andriessen has toned down what he said for

tactical reasons," one of his officials said. "But his basic argument is that widening the EC should not make it any looser. He and M Delors don't want it to end up as a sophisticated common market. M Delors agrees with his ideas but wants to play them down so as not to complicate ratification of the treaty."

Mr Andriessen suggested that a committee should prepare a report on wide-ranging changes well before 1996, including "subsidiarity", strengthening the European parliament and the development of EC defence policy. "An enlargement which weakened the Community's decision-making capacity would be a tragic error," Mr Andriessen told his colleagues.

At last Saturday's meeting M Delors sketched out ways to implement subsidiarity and the Lisbon summit will agree that his ideas should be put into practice. But the gulf emerging between rival interpretations of "subsidiarity" renders the term almost meaningless.

France is to test whether subsidiarity can be invoked to blunt the force of EC rules on free competition administered by Sir Leon Brittan, Britain's senior commissioner. France hopes it be allowed new national latitude to give subsidies to ailing firms.

Diary, page 14
Coal dumping, page 20

PEOPLE

Leaders back UN on Cyprus

Over lunch in Istanbul, prime ministers Constantine Mitsotakis of Greece and Suleyman Demirel of Turkey backed United Nations peace efforts to end the 18-year-old dispute on Cyprus. They also agreed to draw up an accord of "good neighbourliness" despite an incident last week in which a Greek Mirage jet crashed while chasing a Turkish Phantom aircraft over disputed Aegean waters.

Michael Milken, the New York junk bond king, could win a reduction of his ten-year sentence because he helped the government in its securities fraud case against Drexel Burnham Lambert.

The JVC Jazz Festival began a nine-day run in New York on Friday with a 75th birthday party for trumpet king Dizzy Gillespie at Carnegie Hall — without the guest of honour who was ill.

Felix Houphouët-Boigny, 86, Africa's longest-serving president, returned home to the Ivory Coast to a red-carpet reception after nearly five months in Europe. He flew back in a chartered Air France Concord.

Next month's funeral of the late Emperor Haile Selassie will be a private affair in which the government will have no role. President Zewde of Ethiopia said. Haile Selassie's remains were exhumed from a secret location under a lavatory in the imperial palace in February.

Erich Honecker, 79, the former East German leader, will apply for political asylum to the Russian government in a fortnight. *Kurier am Sonntag* of Berlin said. It said he was desperate to resolve his situation as a fugitive in the Chilean embassy in Moscow.

Marion Barry, the former mayor of Washington, is bouncing back from a six-month jail term for cocaine possession, and has launched a campaign for a seat on the

Far right puts Kohl's sombre supporters in the shade

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE contrast at two German party conferences last week could not have been greater. In the Christian Democratic Union's sumptuous Bonn headquarters, the delegates, in smart suits and dresses, politely applauded Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, as he made an impassioned plea for quicker European union.

In the little conference centre at the small Bavarian town of Degersheim, the radical right-wing Republican Party delegates, wearing everything from knickerbockers to suits, put down their beer mugs to stand and cheer as Franz Schönhuber, their chair-

man, promised to defend the mark and to demolish the European Community.

The Christian Democrats were sombre. Polls indicate that only one voter in three now supports their party, that 75 per cent feel the present situation in Germany gives cause for "grave concern" and that 60 per cent simply do not trust politicians. Herr Kohl could promise only hard work in the short term and the benefits of European union sometime in the future.

The Republicans were ebullient. Only 18 months ago they were in disarray as Herr Kohl succeeded in unifying Germany and removed the most important plank in their political programme. Now, thanks largely to the

chancellor's mistrusted efforts to achieve European unification, the polls show that the Republicans are surging ahead.

Herr Schönhuber said that 60 new members sign up every day, indicating the party will win an influential block of seats in the 1994 general election. While the Christian Democrat delegates slipped out between the speeches for coffee and pastries, the Republicans sat listening, ordering beer and plates of steaming wurst, ham and sauerkraut.

Herr Schönhuber is 69, seven years older than the chancellor, and that is the critical difference. The Republican chairman — he avoids being called "leader" — was old enough to fight in

the second world war and remains proud of serving as a soldier with the SS.

There is nothing wrong at all in having fought for their country, he tells his followers. They must stop feeling ashamed and remain ready to fight democratically against Brussels to protect their homeland. In contrast, the chancellor feels the need to apologise for the devastation of the war. There can be no questioning his sincerity when he says European union is the only way to ensure that nationalism can never again plunge the Continent into war.

However, a recent study of school visits to former Nazi concentration camps showed that the gap since the war means that the

present generation of young Germans is no longer horrified by the crimes of the Nazis and increasingly see their grandfathers as war heroes. As the mix of delegates to the Republicans' conference showed, Herr Schönhuber is exploiting that generation gap. There were a few veterans; they were never Nazis, they tell you, just young patriots defending their homeland. But they were heavily outnumbered by younger delegates.

The European debate has begun to attract young professionals into the party, such as Dr Rolf Schiller, who leads the 15-strong Republican group that has just been elected to the state parliament in Baden-Württemberg. The influx of foreigners

has been the other main recruiting sergeant.

In striving to clean up his party's image, Herr Schönhuber has been quick to condemn racial violence, although he makes no secret of wanting to see all foreigners sent home. "Germany for the Germans" is his populist slogan.

No elections are scheduled in Germany until 1994, when there will be 19, at national, state and local level. The main parties are relieved because polls show that the Republicans are challenging to become the third strongest party in the country. By the time the voting marathon begins, Herr Kohl hopes that progress towards European union will be irreversible.

Fears of war plague Yeltsin as regional fighting flares

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin returned to Moscow from his successful American trip yesterday, straight into one of the most threatening troubles of his presidency.

Last night the Russian leader was having to contemplate the imminent possibility of war with two of his country's former Soviet neighbours, the uncontrollable of large sections of an army only nominally under Russian command, and the public reopening of conflicts within the leadership over how Russia should respond.

The two main flashpoints were in Moldova, where pro-Russian separatists are trying to keep control of the self-styled Transnistrian republic, and in the Georgian region of South Ossetia, which Georgian troops are trying to regain from pro-Russian Ossetian separatists. Moldova and Georgia have accused former Soviet troops, formally under Russian jurisdiction, of intervening on behalf of the separatists. Russia denies the charges.

Fierce fighting was reported yesterday from the town of Bender in Moldova for the second day running, as Moldavian forces and troops of the breakaway Transnistrian region vied for control of the mainly Russian-populated town. Transnistrian forces were reported to have retaken Bender yesterday morning, after Moldavian troops and police had briefly won control the previous day, destroying three Russian tanks. Transnistrian separatists reported that more than 200 people had been killed and 300 injured in Bender.

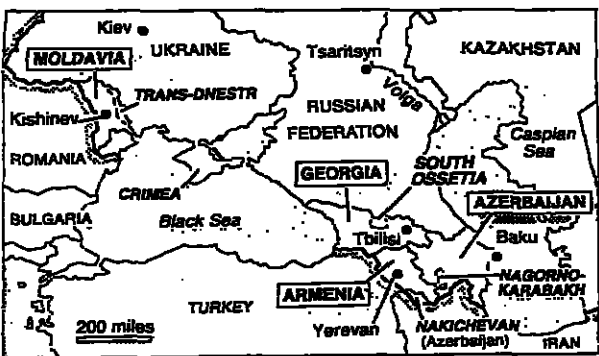
In the South Ossetian capital, Tskhinvali, three people were reported killed. The conflicts present Russia with a multiple danger, to its security, to the safety of Russians

living outside Russia and raise strong passions. There is also the risk that former Soviet troops will become involved on the pretext of protecting the Russian population.

Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, and Mircea Snegur, the Moldavian leader, have accused Russian troops of intervening in the conflict. Answering Moldavian accusations that tanks advancing on Bender had Russian tricolours on the front, Moscow said that the tanks were seized by local separatists. In Moldova, as in South Ossetia, however, the distinction between separatist forces and Russian forces is difficult to draw, because sections of the former Soviet army sympathise with the local Russian population.

In Moscow over the weekend the violence in Moldova and Georgia developed into an open political conflict between the doves and hawks in the Russian leadership, with the government of acting prime minister, Yegor Gaidar, issuing a conciliatory statement calling for talks and political solutions, and more belligerent pronouncements from Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president, defending Russians beyond Russia's borders, and General Pavel Grachev, Russia's defence minister.

On his return yesterday, Mr Yeltsin met parliament and government leaders and was said to have approved the government's actions and sent a sharp message to the Moldavian leader. "We want to settle all matters at the negotiating table," he said, "but when dozens of people are killed and when there is a war going on, we must react to defend people and stop the bloodshed. We have the strength to do that."



Hunt for US captives moves to Tambov

FROM REUTER IN MOSCOW

THE Russian city of Tambov became the centre of the hunt for missing American prisoners of war yesterday amid reports that Western soldiers had been held in labour camps there after the second world war.

Tass news agency said that reporters in Tambov, an industrial city about 250 miles southeast of Moscow, had recovered documents dating from 1945 showing that a commander had been ordered to prepare his camp to receive 2,500 foreign prisoners of war. "We can only assume those were prisoners of Hitler's camps freed by our troops and sent over here," the news agency quoted Vladimir Penkov, a Tambov local administration official, as saying. "Specialists will still have to find out how many of them are lying [buried] on Tambov soil."

Tass said the prisoners sent to Tambov at the end of the war included soldiers from France, Britain and Luxembourg as well as from the United States.

President Yeltsin shocked his American hosts at a summit meeting with President Bush last week when he said some American servicemen captured during the Vietnam and Korean wars might have been moved to the Soviet Union. Some might still be alive, he said.

Mr Yeltsin returned to Moscow yesterday and renewed pledges he made in Washington to track down any missing United States prisoners of war who might still be held on Russian soil. He recalled data released earlier this month to United States senators indicating that more than 23,000 prisoners of war had been brought to the Soviet Union after the second world war.

"Now comes the matter of their destiny. How many were freed, how many died,

how many were shot and where were they buried? We still do not know the fate of several prisoners," he said. "Maybe they are still alive here somewhere, maybe in mental hospitals. We must find the truth and the destiny of every single person."

Mr Yeltsin said a Russian commission had been looking into the fate of prisoners for the past three months. Creation of a joint Russian-American commission had been agreed with President Bush. Its members would have access to archives in the whole of Russia and would be free to travel throughout the country, the Russian president said.

Tass said there was "evidence from local residents who were prisoners in local camps and who say that, in addition to the soldiers of Hitler's army, there were Americans among the prisoners." Investigations would "help to fulfil Yeltsin's promise to return every American detained here to his family... even if we are only talking about his remains or about information about his final years."

American and Russian officials have already visited a prison camp site in Pechora in the far north of Russia in their hunt for missing prisoners. But they returned empty-handed this week, having failed to find evidence of missing prisoners. They said they would study records handed over by prison authorities before reaching a conclusion on whether the camp, 750 miles north-east of Moscow, ever held an American prisoner captured in the Korean war. Tass said. There are still 2,266 American troops unaccounted for after the Vietnam war, over 8,100 from the Korean war, and nearly 79,000 from the second world war. Almost all are believed to be dead.



New for old: A young woman in Tallinn showing the new kroon that she got for her old roubles

Estonian kroon ousts the rouble

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN TALLINN

ESTONIA has introduced an independent, convertible currency, the first in the former Soviet region. Other republics, with plans of their own, will be watching Estonia closely in the weeks ahead. The International Monetary Fund advised the Estonians to wait, but has now pledged its support to the currency, conditional on the further progress of economic reform.

The new kroon (crown), introduced at the weekend, is unofficially pegged to the mark at a rate of eight kroon to the dollar. The initial rate to the dollar is 12.59. The new currency is backed by a stabilisation fund of \$120 million (€60 million), most of it made up of the gold reserves of the pre-1940 Estonian republic, recently returned by Western states. Proportionately, this is much bigger than was the case in Poland, for example, but Estonia is in a much weaker economic position than most of the states of Eastern Europe.

At 4am on Saturday, the rouble ceased to be legal currency in Estonia. Until tonight, every registered resident of the country can change up to 1,500 roubles (about £7) at a rate of ten roubles to the kroon. Most people in the queues at the official exchange points seemed to find that fair, and indeed a great many do not even have 1,500 roubles in exchange.

The mood of the population in general is calm and the panic buying that preceded the kroon's introduction has subsided. A few street sellers are still offering various goods for roubles, and their stalls are often besieged by customers. Some of them, however, have been arrested.

Hard-currency shops are now taking only kroon and ordinary Estonians are for the first time going into shops — only to recoil in disbelief at the prices. A steak in the hard-currency Palace Hotel now costs 184 kroon (1,840 roubles), or more than the average monthly wage.

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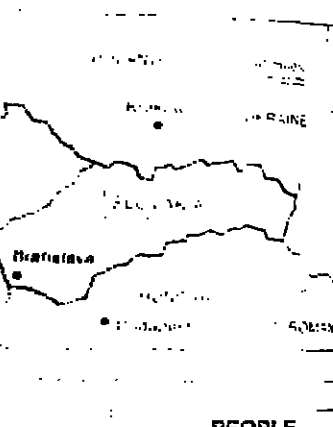
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RARD DAVIES

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PEOPLE

Leaders back UN on Cyprus

Over lunch in Istanbul, prime ministers Constantine Mitsotakis of Greece and Suleyman Demirel of Turkey backed United Nations peace efforts to end the 15-year-old dispute on Cyprus. They also agreed to draw up an accord of "peace and neighbourliness" despite an incident last week in which a Greek Mirage jet crashed while chasing a Turkish Phantom aircraft over disputed Aegean waters.

Michael Mullen, the New York Times correspondent, said that the two leaders had agreed to a declaration of intent because he believed the agreement in its own right was a step against President Bush's policy.

He said the two leaders began their talks in New York on Friday with a side-burnish of the two leaders' personal rapport. Mr Mullen said that the two leaders had agreed to a declaration of intent because he believed the agreement in its own right was a step against President Bush's policy.

Leah Houphreuer-Boigen, a New York Times correspondent, said that the two leaders had agreed to a declaration of intent because he believed the agreement in its own right was a step against President Bush's policy.

Next month's funeral of the late Emperor Haile Selassie will be a major event in which the two leaders will have a chance to meet. Mr Mullen said that the two leaders had agreed to a declaration of intent because he believed the agreement in its own right was a step against President Bush's policy.

Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, will apply for asylum in the Russian government and the Russian government will consider his application. Mr Mullen said that the two leaders had agreed to a declaration of intent because he believed the agreement in its own right was a step against President Bush's policy.

Marion Barry, the former mayor of Washington, will be a candidate in the upcoming election. Mr Mullen said that the two leaders had agreed to a declaration of intent because he believed the agreement in its own right was a step against President Bush's policy.

Bitter ANC puts blame on de Klerk for township bloodbath



De Klerk: mayhem will hinder task abroad

AN ATMOSPHERE of bitterness has now entered relations between the South African government and the African National Congress. Just before pulling out of talks about democracy yesterday, Nelson Mandela, the president of the ANC, promised: "In the course of our future political work we will not forget what Mr de Klerk, the National Party, and the Inkatha Freedom Party have done to our people."

After touring the scene of the Boipatong township killings, he said: "I have never seen such cruelty. I am convinced that we are no longer dealing with simple human beings, but with animals."

The ANC now plainly holds the government entirely responsible for the actions of

After a disastrous weekend for the South African government and talk of a new state of emergency, the omens for peaceful change are bleak, Michael Hamlyn in Johannesburg writes

the wild men in the township hostels, who have for the past year randomly killed township dwellers nearby. The Zulus of Inkatha have, the ANC feels, been acting as surrogates for the white authorities, and even when not actually assisted by the security forces have not been hindered by them.

The worst bloodbath, which took place in Boipatong, south of Johannesburg, on Wednesday night, in which 39 people — mainly women and children — died, reinforces what the ANC have suspected all along.

There are reports circulating that mysterious white men were seen aiding the Zulu impi that night. Local residents believe that the killers were ferried to do their butchery in police armoured personnel carriers.

There is no doubt that the six-hour delay before police arrived on the scene and the long process of negotiation with the hostel inmates before they went into search for murder weapons reinforce the impression that the police were hand-in-glove with the killers.

There is also a report that, when faced with the police at

the hostel gates, one of the Zulu warriors exclaimed in Afrikaans: "What are you doing this for now? Last night you were with us."

The police flatly deny the allegations. They say that routine taping of radio messages and random checks by senior police officers would have made it impossible for even "freelance" police buccanniers to have been operating in the township.

The weekend has been an unmitigated disaster for the government. White South Africa may be able to tolerate the scale of the Boipatong

slaughter, so long as it takes place far enough away from their own well-watered backyards. But the widely broadcast image of a ragged line of police opening fire on a crowd in a void on the fringe of Boipatong on Saturday, after President de Klerk's humiliating flight from the streets of the township, after his car was surrounded by an enraged crowd, reinforces the image of a security machine that is running out of control.

Mr de Klerk, who left yesterday on a visit to Spain, to try to drum up further foreign support is going to find that harder because the world's media were present to report these events. His task is to encourage foreign investment in his country. Without it the economy, suffering from the

world recession and sanctions, will not be able to grow enough to satisfy the least aspirations of the black majority. The images of Saturday's mayhem, in which at least two died, make such investment difficult to contemplate.

Mr de Klerk's withdrawal in disgrace, after a screaming mob of demonstrators ambushed him as he was making the kind of sympathetic gesture to the bereaved that his predecessors would have found incredible, should make clear to him the strength of feelings against him. He was clearly shaken by the experience, but his reaction was perhaps even more ominous for the future of the country. Pale and angry, he said later that the

authorities would have to "look beyond the present measures to maintain law and order". His remarks are taken to mean that the government is considering reimposing some form of the state of emergency which allowed the security forces to operate virtually unhindered by democratic control in the time of President Botha.

The execution of emergency regulations, except perhaps in limited areas of Transvaal and Natal, where black-on-black violence has been at its worst, will do much to set back the reputation for reasonableness and adaptability that Mr de Klerk has done much to foster on his foreign travels.

Mandela pull-out, page 1

Israeli voters leave illusions behind

AS ISRAEL prepares to go the polls tomorrow in the thirteenth general election of its 44-year history, Israelis are questioning the virtues of their political system.

Nobody doubts that Israel is an island of democracy in the Middle East. From the hotel receptionist in the northern town of Kiryat Shmona to the frame shop owner in Jerusalem and the mechanic in Jaffa, the normally disparate elements of Israeli society agree on something else as well: be they secular or orthodox, Ashkenazi (European) or Sephardi (Oriental) Jews, an unprecedented number of Israeli voters are disillusioned with elections and fed up with politicians.

Although in theory the next Israeli government could bring peace to the Jewish state through negotiations with its Arab neighbours and the Palestinians, reform the country's ailing economy, attract a million Russian Jewish immigrants and fulfil the dreams of the early Zionist founding fathers, few Israelis believe that a leader will emerge who is capable of taking such visionary and courageous steps.

Part of the malaise has been generated by the lack-

Richard Beeston sums up the election mood in Jerusalem: a myriad of party fragments and nobody to vote for

lustre performance of the two main leaders — Yitzhak Shamir, 76, the prime minister, and Yitzhak Rabin, 70, the opposition Labour Party leader — who have been familiar figures on the political landscape for decades and have studiously avoided becoming embroiled in any controversial issues during a month of campaigning.

The problems of an uninspiring leadership have been compounded by the country's proportional representation electoral system that encourages the splitting of parties into an unwieldy mass of competing special interest groups, which, once elected, are not accountable to any constituency in particular.

In the last session of the Knesset, 15 parties were represented in the 120-seat house and in this election 25 parties will compete. True, Israelis will be able to choose from a myriad of groups rep-

resenting the interests of pensioners, taxi drivers and army veterans, as well as the more conventional parties covering the full spectrum from ultra-orthodox Jewish persuasions to the centrist, left-wing and right-wing groups.

However, as one Israeli commentator has remarked, most Israelis still walk out of the polling booths feeling far from satisfied. "Like people who stare at their bulging closets and complain that they have nothing to wear, many Israeli voters look at the endless list of competing parties and feel that they have no one to vote for. Worse, the coming campaign, like its recent predecessors, offers little hope for a charming new outfit."

While smaller parties could have been discounted at one time, during the period when the Labour Party dominated the political landscape, these groups are now essential in building any working coalition. For instance, at one point Mr Shamir's outgoing Likud-led government had eight separate parties in its coalition, including those of extremist right-wing ministers, who held cabinet posts although their parties had only received a tiny fraction of the popular vote.

With the two main parties, Likud and Labour, running only a few points apart in the opinion polls, there is already a realisation among the country's majority centrist, secular voters that neither party will be able to form a government without first including extremist right or radical left groups in the coalition. Of more concern is the pivotal role of the ultra-orthodox parties, whose leaders represent less than 10 per cent of the people. Rabbi Eliezer Schach, 96, their spiritual leader, could well decide who will ultimately run the country, as he did after the last general election.

According to opinion polls, most Israelis would like to have a strong, stable government to meet the challenges of the peace talks, mass Russian immigration and a struggling economy. However, the public is likely again to be drawn to the spectacle of frantic behind-the-scenes haggling as either Likud or Labour tries to cobble together a coalition by wooing the smaller parties or to form a national unity government incapable of any decision-making on the important problems facing the country.

The result has left the average Israeli viewing the polls with a mixture of apathy and anger. Perhaps not surprisingly, Israeli politicians recently came last, behind even journalists, in a popularity survey of the professions.



Ashrawi: no arrest but will face questioning

thought reasonable security arrangements could be arranged if large parts of the Golan Heights were returned to Syria. The findings, published by the dovish Council for Peace and Security, appeared to represent a huge endorsement of the opposition Labour party's policy of trading land for peace.

In southern Lebanon yesterday, an Israeli patrol advanced out of Israel's self-declared "security zone" and clashed with pro-Iranian Hezbollah fighters.

The Israeli police announced yesterday that the Palestinians, including Hader Abdel-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, Faisal Hussein, the team's chief adviser, and Hanan Ashrawi, its spokeswoman, would be questioned on their return to the occupied territories but not detained. "They will not be arrested; they will be investigated," an official said.

The move was seen as an attempt by Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, to avoid controversy before tomorrow's election. If the Palestinians return from Jordan before polling begins and are arrested, it would probably spell the end of the peace process, the cornerstone of the ruling Likud party's electoral campaign. If the Palestinians go unpunished, far-right parties will accuse the government of renegeing on its policy of keeping the PLO out of the talks. Ghassan al-Khatib, a member of the Palestinian delegation who has been arrested five times, remarked: "It is too embarrassing for them to arrest a delegation that they have been negotiating with."

Ronnie Milo, the Israeli police minister, who on Friday vowed to charge the Palestinians with breaking Israel's law banning contact with the PLO, yesterday avoided reporters' questions after the cabinet meeting. "I will talk after the election," he said.

The right-wing Likud party suffered a setback yesterday with the publication of a survey that canvassed the views of all Israel's retired generals and intelligence chiefs on the issue of security. The poll disclosed that 68 per cent of former officers thought Israel should give up control of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in exchange for peace and that 71 per cent

Perot goes 'rabbit' hunting

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENTIAL elections are often bruising and are always aggressively fought. But few now doubt that this year's race for the White House is becoming a particularly venomous contest.

Much of the poison that is already seeping into the campaigning can be traced back to a bitter exchange of words in 1986 between Ross Perot and President Bush over whether the government was covering up information it had on missing American servicemen in Vietnam.

"This world is full of lions and tigers and rabbits," Mr Perot told Mr Bush, who was then vice-president. "And you are a rabbit." The angry conversation, which Mr Perot has recounted to friends, stemmed from the Reagan administration's dismissal of the Texan billionaire's insistence that there were still American prisoners of war in Vietnam, and its decision not to authorise Mr Perot to buy, for \$4.2 million (£2.3 million), a video from a Hong Kong-based British businessman purporting to show evidence of US servicemen being held in slave camps.

Mr Perot's almost obsessive crusade on the American prisoners of war issue had long been a thorn in the side of US governments. The Reagan administration even allowed the Texan access to Pentagon files on the issue, in its attempt to persuade Mr Perot that he was wrong about his cover-up claims. President Yeltsin's surprise announcement, during his summit here last week, that some American servicemen captured in Vietnam were sent to Russian camps seems set to draw the venom out.

What is becoming increasingly clear is that Mr Perot harbours a deep personal grudge against Mr Bush and one he has not been slow to indulge. Shortly after Mr Bush told Mr Perot that the government was not interested in purchasing the video, the Texan, who has a penchant for using private detectives to dig up dirt on his opponents and enemies, launched a series of investigations into Mr Bush's private affairs. The Washington Post announced yesterday that in 1987 Mr Perot approached the newspaper with the results of two enquiries.

The Texan billionaire paid a Washington law firm to look into a \$48 million (£27 million) tax deduction secured by Pennzoil, a firm chaired by a man Mr Bush had been in the oil business



Youth appeal: Ross Perot lifts a girl supporter onto his shoulder as he acknowledges cheers at the end of a rally in Boston at the weekend

with in the 1950s. Mr Perot told The Washington Post that Mr Bush had been involved in the complicated tax deduction deal. The Texan also gathered documents on two separate \$50,000 investments Mr Bush made in the late 1970s which Perot sides then described as "walk-the-line tax deals." The newspaper said yesterday that its enquiries into the results of Mr Perot's investigations

"turned up no evidence of impropriety by Bush". Yesterday James Squires, the Perot campaign spokesman, said: "Mr Perot received information about what he thought was a questionable transaction involving the federal government that he believed might constitute a fraud on taxpayers." Mr Squires said no laws were violated. "Mr Perot does not think his actions were inappropriate."

According to friends and former employees of Mr Perot, the Texan has continued, since Mr Bush's election in 1988, to pursue any information that might lead to damaging revelations about the president and his family. Speaking to the Texas Republican convention in Mr Perot's home town of Dallas on Saturday, President Bush acknowledged that "we are in a fight of our lives".

Perot
FOR PRESIDENT

American weed can eat waste plutonium

New York: An indigenous American weed, disliked by farmers but treasured by Indians for narcotic properties, may prove the answer to the world's nuclear waste problems (Ben Macintyre writes).

A government biochemist has found that the poisonous Jimson weed, a fragrant cousin of deadly nightshade, digests plutonium, the radioactive metallic element used in nuclear production, which remains radioactive for thousands of years. Now, according to a report in The Wall Street Journal, the radioactive waste may be contained compactly at a fraction of the cost, thanks to Jimson.

Dr Paul Jackson, of the US energy department, says that the weed's peculiar properties are the result of a survival technique of plants by which elements such as plutonium, cadmium and boron are bound up in a protein compound and harmlessly carried in the plant's cells. When grown on nuclear waste, the Jimson apparently separates radioactive metals from other, less dangerous by-products. The plant becomes radioactive as a result, but can then be ground into a paste and stored more easily. American scientists have also developed a powdery clay that can sieve out another radioactive substance, strontium 90, from nuclear waste. Strontium 90 takes at least 1,000 years to lose its radioactivity and is hazardous because it displaces calcium in human tissue and damages bone formation.

According to a report in Nature, the British science journal, the sodium-4-mica clay seeks out strontium in waste and locks on to it, preventing it from seeping into the ground. When mixed with radioactive waste, scientists speculate that the clay could act as a sealant.

Doctors on trial
Paris: Four doctors responsible for the accidental contamination of more than 1,000 haemophiliacs with HIV, the AIDS-causing virus, will go on trial today. They are charged with failing to act to halt sales of contaminated blood. (AFP)

Gas peril
Bordeaux: A Frenchman turned on the gas in his flat here to asphyxiate himself. He then abandoned his suicide attempt and lit a cigarette to recover, blowing up the flat. He is being treated for severe burns. (Reuters)

Blast kills five
Kuala Lumpur: A petrochemical tanker was sinking off Port Klang near here after explosions and a huge fire on board left at least five people dead and several others missing, officials said. Foam was being sprayed to contain an oil spill. (Reuters)

Ramos wins
Manila: Barring a last-minute court injunction, the Philippines congress will open a joint session today in a final step to proclaim General Fidel Ramos as the country's next president to replace Corason Aquino. (Reuters)

Police shot
Cairo: Muslim extremists armed with machineguns shot dead two policemen and two Christian merchants in separate attacks in the province of Assiut at the weekend. Egyptian government sources reported. (Reuters)

New minister
Madrid: Cuba has replaced Isidoro Malmierca, its foreign minister, by Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, its ambassador to the UN, in an attempt to end its international isolation, the Spanish daily El Pais reported. (AP)

AMERICA NOTEBOOK by Ben Macintyre

Great and good rush to pray for fallen Guardian Angel

After years of eyeing the Guardian Angels with barely disguised suspicion, New York's most prominent citizens and politicians have been going in droves to offer condolences to the group's founder-leader, now recovering from gunshot wounds.

Curtis Sliwa, the brash and self-promoting head of the Guardian Angels, the anti-crime vigilantes based in New York, was shot five times early on Friday after being ambushed in the back of a taxi. Last night his condition was critical but stable, after an operation on his abdomen and legs.

Within hours of the attack, David Dinkins, New York's mayor, was holding the well-manicured hand of

Mr Sliwa's wife, Lisa, on the pavement outside Bellevue Hospital as television cameras formed a scrum. Mr Sliwa was barely conscious before he had received visits from Ed Koch, the former mayor. Cardinal John O'Connor, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in the city, and Jackie Mason, the comedian. Many also took the opportunity to kiss Mrs Sliwa on television.

Most of New York's great and good hitherto have made a point of not associating too closely with the Guardian Angels, whose controversial methods and popularity are a constant irritant to the police. The Guardian Angels were also behaving true to form by tak-

ing the law into their own hands. Mrs Sliwa began issuing threats about what she would do to the culprits and 50 Guardian Angels, red berets aslant and jewelled jangling, took to the streets of the Lower East Side where Mr Sliwa was attacked, looking for trouble-makers or just trouble.

Mr Sliwa's brush with death, as reported by the Angels themselves, quickly took on the characteristics of Hollywood-style escape, involving superhuman heroism, extreme violence and a loving woman all in one scene. After being fired on repeatedly by a masked man hiding in the front passenger seat of the taxi, Mr Sliwa apparently wrestled with

him manfully before diving out of the car window. As he lay bleeding on the pavement, he gasped "Code Red" into his walkie-talkie and within moments his wife, a former model, was at his side. The police would say only that Mr Sliwa had "aggravated a lot of people".

In the kidnapping of Sidney Reso, the Exxon oil company executive, on the other hand, the police have found two suspects but as yet no victim. A husband and wife, "The Seals of Possum Hollow" as a quaint sign outside their New Jersey home proclaims them, were arrested on Friday night on suspicion of kidnapping. Arthur Seale, a former security

guard for Exxon, and his wife, Irene, were seized after a four-day, high-tech chase along telephone lines. The couple were said to have made calls from telephone booths and cellular telephones to make their ransom demands, but were foiled by the FBI and some technological wizards employed by the telephone company. Of Mr Reso, 57, whose empty car was found with the engine running outside his home nearly two months ago, there is still no trace.

Florida police are wrestling with an equally baffling case involving several hundred stool-pigeons, or rather tortoises. Someone

apparently has started surreptitiously introducing rare gopher tortoises on to a piece of uncultivated land near West Palm Beach, which has been reserved for development. The gopher belongs to an endangered species: a local lawyer who wants to develop the land to provide services for Lantana airport near by contends that a business rival, an American Indian, used "his expertise in the native habitat of certain animals" to find and then dump the tortoises. He is now suing his rival under anti-trust law. The tortoises are breeding and 34 have had to be penned into a metal cage after they were found burrowing into the runway.

Power seeps to the centre

Consumer politics gives more control to Whitehall, argues Peter Riddell

We need a new term to describe the age of John Major. Majorism will not really do, as both Mr Major and his predecessor agree. Last week, Norman Lamont ended his announcement about the scrapping of the National Economic Development Council with a ringing declaration that "the age of corporatism must be put firmly behind us". But he did not offer any alternative.

With a mischievous smile, Sir Edward Heath challenged the Chancellor's use of the word "corporatism". Initially, this was mainly applied to Fascist Italy and the organisation of society into corporations representing employers and employees of industries and professions. Britain never went far down that road, and in the 1960s corporatism was redefined in the way Mr Lamont meant: what Harold Wilson described with evident relish in his book *The Governance of Britain* as "almost constant consultation with industry, with the Confederation of British Industry, the Trades Union Congress, and with both together". It was never as worthwhile, or as much fun, as Lord Wilson implied, but such tripartism was at the heart of policy-making for two decades.

But if that age is over, what age are we living in? The main shift in the state's role since 1979 has been away from producer interests towards consumers, from the social contract with the unions of the 1970s to the citizen's charter of the 1990s. The change in terminology is revealing. In the Wilson era there was supposed to be a contract between the government and the leaders, if not the members, of unions, however flawed that turned out to be in practice. Now we have a series of charters, prepared and issued by ministers alone, independent of producer groups.

Mr Major, of course, argues that the aim is to give "power to the people", to reduce dependency on the state, whether the town hall or the benefit office: what has fashionably, but vaguely, become known as empowerment. The emphasis is on widening the opportunity of the individual under the grandiose phrase of "the privatisation of choice". But that implies just two participants: central government and the individual. Little role is granted to organised groups or to intermediary institutions, whether local councils, trade unions or trade associations. The individual is to be given rights and opportunities directly, in education, housing and health.

To achieve this goal of treating consumers of public services as customers with a choice, the reach of the state, or rather of Whitehall, has been extended considerably. Ministers have much greater discretionary powers than they had in 1979. Mr Major has denied that government wants to centralise; tenants, not civil servants, decide whether to buy their council

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

houses: governors and parents, not bureaucrats, decide whether a school should apply to become grant-maintained; and those running individual hospitals, not the man in Whitehall, decide whether to apply for trust status. But the men and women in Whitehall do decide whether to approve applications by school governors and hospitals and what resources they should receive. Ministers also make many key appointments to supervisory bodies and to health authorities.

The re-election of the Tories for a fourth term has also weakened one of the main checks in a parliamentary system: the threat that the Opposition may win an election in a few years' time. But talk of a one-party state is much exaggerated. The Tory party is unlike the ruling Liberal Democrats in Japan with their formally organised factions under separate leaders who have their own finances and patronage. From early 1990 until April 1992, the Tories behaved as if they might lose: that is why they ousted Mrs Thatcher. In that respect, opinion polls and by-elections are a useful discipline on governments, even if a poor predictor of the outcome of general elections.

'The transfer of monopoly providers to the private sector does not automatically give power to the people'

But, with the opposition parties now in disarray, the government can behave for a couple of years as if we do live in a one-party state. Apart from Europe, it faces no serious challenge either in the Commons or from organised groups and subordinate institutions. That does not mean that policy is decided independently of all outside interests. The danger is rather of an anarchic situation in which powerful interests can gain a say and influence policy. One measure is the growth in the activity of lobbyists.

Government policy may no longer be determined in talks with the CBI and the TUC, but it is still settled from time to time to suit private commercial interests. The prime example was the decision to offer large tax reliefs and subsidies for Canary Wharf: another is the handling of television and broadcasting. What Gordon Brown has described as "boardroom excesses" — perks, generous share options and big salary increases — at the privatised utilities have shown how the transfer of monopoly providers from the public to the private sector does not automatically give power to the people.

Few regret the end of corporatism. Much of the citizen's charter approach is appealing, in intention at least. But it is flawed. The risk is that the powers of central government are being strengthened as much as the choice of individuals. Corporatism should not be replaced by democratic centralism.

The latest violence has strengthened ANC hardliners, writes R.W. Johnson in South Africa

De Klerk's disaster

South Africa's precarious progress towards democracy is again in the balance in the wake of the massacre at Boipatong last Wednesday, and the shambles of President de Klerk's subsequent visit to the troubled area. Nelson Mandela yesterday accused the government of complicity in the massacre and said he was calling off the constitutional talks.

Nobody can be sure who was responsible for the massacre, but a climate has been created in which precise questions of evidence seem almost not to matter. The angry township mob that chased the president and his ministers ignominiously away seemed in no doubt as to who bears the real blame.

Yet there is a degree of absurdity in accusing white authority every time blacks slaughter one another, for nobody had more to lose than President de Klerk from these events. With the earlier breakdown of constitutional negotiations he had been well placed to resist the African National Congress's campaign of mass action. This campaign, aimed at pressuring the government into further concessions, and ultimately its complete overthrow, had not started well. Launched last Tuesday, the campaign mustered sparse support: the ANC rally in

Cape Town attracted only 5,000 people and the march in Johannesburg led by Nelson Mandela himself was only 2,000 strong. Given the large demonstrations and successful work staydowns of years past, everything suggested the campaign was about to flop.

Not only are workers not keen on political strikes in the midst of a deep recession, but every opinion poll monotonously shows huge majorities of all races preferring the government's philosophy of power-sharing over the ANC's demand for simple majority rule. By sticking firmly to his position, Mr de Klerk could not only claim to have a large popular majority on his side, but could enjoy watching the ANC's vaunted campaign collapse under the suffocating weight of popular apathy.

The campaign's only hope of success lay in the possibility that the government might overreact and shoot down demonstrators or strikers, thus generating genuine mass support for protest action. By the same token, the outbreak of such violence and the police response was the very last thing Mr

de Klerk could afford. So whoever was responsible for the massacre of upwards of 39 people at Boipatong (which means, with sad irony, "a place of hiding") can hardly have acted at Mr de Klerk's behest. There is in any case, no reason to distrust the sincerity of his expression of sorrow at the massacre. What is hard to credit is the almost unbelievable stupidity of the government's propaganda machine in announcing with such fanfare the president's impending visit, guaranteeing that the ANC would have time to cook up the furious reception Mr de Klerk got.

The massacre will now be investigated by a commission headed by the universally respected Mr Justice Goldstone. Sensational revelations cannot be expected, however. All we know is that there is a history of conflict between the hostel and the local squatters; that a leading Inkatha activist was assassinated there last week; and that massive retaliation was on the cards. One can predict that the commission will hear that the

attackers were Zulu-speakers and there will be allegations of police collusion, but conclusive evidence will be in short supply. Given that both Mr Mandela and Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary-general, have already charged the government with complicity in the killings, any township citizen who took it into his head to testify in a spirit contrary to the ANC line would have to be a brave, indeed foolhardy, soul. Equally, any hostel dweller who comes forward to point a finger at Inkatha is unlikely to have a safe and happy life ahead of him.

Despite Mr Mandela's statement yesterday, the complete collapse of constitutional negotiations is unlikely, for the ANC, like the government, has nowhere else to go. Indeed, with the negotiations already stalled, the threat does not amount to much.

But there can be little doubt that the Boipatong tragedy will strengthen the hand of the hardliners within the ANC. There was no disguising the deep misgivings over the mass action campaign within the ANC ranks — the

main Indian newspaper, *The Leader*, openly attacked it, there were signs of trade union disaffection, and even Mr Mandela joked to a white audience that the problem with collective leadership was that he sometimes felt he had been freed from Robben Island. But since the front-bench team failed to bring home the goods from the constitutional talks, radicals such as Ronnie Kasrils, who ranks about number four in the Communist party, and Peter Mokoba, the ANC Youth League chairman, could not be denied their day.

The ANC will now close ranks behind the mass action campaign, giving the movement's communists and young radicals of the "seizure of power" school the greatest opportunity they have ever had. In Mr Kasrils's words, no ruling class in history has given away peacefully and South Africa's will be no exception. The radicals will provide a challenge the government cannot surrender to.

South Africa is now in for a trial of strength with the two sides looking more evenly matched than they did only a week ago, and with the clear danger that the moderates (including many within the ANC) will find their positions weakened at just the point when, for the country's sake, they need to be reinforced.

A prisoner who shames Israel

Bernard Levin says that it is in Jewish interests to free Mordecai Vanunu

The story of Mordecai Vanunu is tragic from whichever side it is viewed. For those whose memory does not comfortably go back six years, I must offer a somewhat substantial recapitulation.

About the middle of September 1986, Mordecai Vanunu, an Israeli citizen, came to London from Israel, via Australia. Vanunu was a technician who had been working for 10 years on Israel's nuclear capacity (in both the energy form and the defence). He was not a leading scientist or key figure in the programme, but from his job he knew a good deal, including security-sensitive matters.

Whatever his motives, he got in touch with *The Sunday Times*, bringing documents and photographs: the paper's staff, guided by nuclear experts, concluded that he and his information were genuine. The result was a story of considerable dimensions. But a few days before publication, Vanunu had disappeared.

He had been kidnapped by Mossad, the Israeli secret police. No stranger to kidnapping or indeed assassination, Mossad took Vanunu back to Israel to stand trial for treason. Of course, it was well known that Israel had long had both kinds of nuclear capacity, but the material Vanunu supplied to the newspaper was very detailed, as was his revelation of how great was the arsenal.

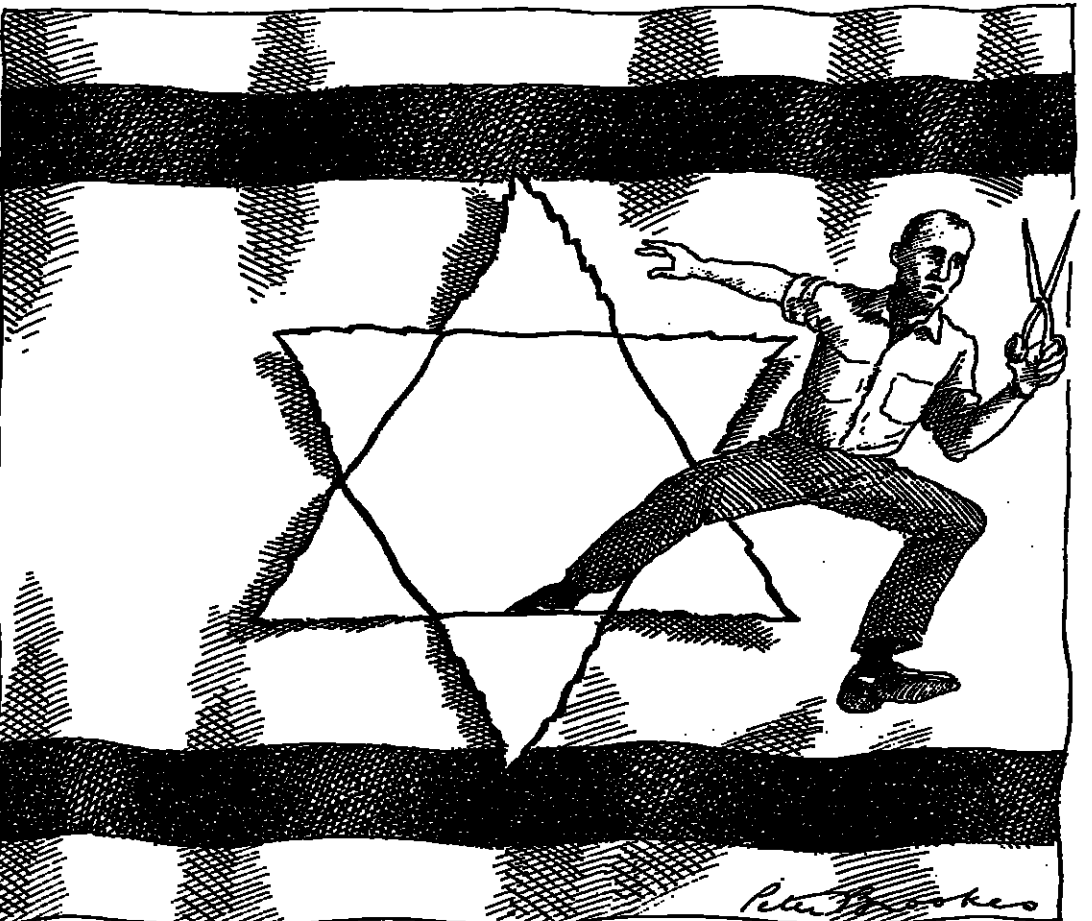
From that day to this, Mordecai Vanunu has been an unpersuaded. Until his trial he was not allowed to speak to anyone. You may remember the touching moment when he held up his palm at the window of the bus taking him to court, and on which he had written "kidnapped"; he was prevented not only from speaking to others but from listening to others.

His case was heard in camera: he was allowed counsel. He was convicted and sentenced to 18

years' imprisonment in solitary confinement. His appeal was rejected. That was six years ago; he is not physically tortured or starved or mocked, but his conditions can truly be called inhuman. (When he was allowed two hours a day outside his cell for exercise, he had to take it in a part of the prison specially screened off, lest he should see another human being. His sparse visits from his family must be taken behind wire. His brother, who has ceaselessly worked for his release, cannot go back to Israel because he would be arrested; his danger from Mossad must always be in his mind.)

Now, Israel is a tiny country, almost entirely surrounded by enemies. It has fought several successful wars with those enemies, but it need lose only one to be utterly destroyed; a subjugated Israel would experience another Holocaust. Its enemies are not only on its borders but elsewhere: in our Foreign Office for a start, and our Parliament. There is nothing in Israel more important than its security — not its incomes, not its culture, not its democracy, not even its religion. (For what will it profit its incomers, its culture, its democracy or its religion if the country is wiped off the map and its people slaughtered?)

Here I must pause and declare an interest: unfortunately I cannot make up my mind what the interest should be. I am a Jew, and a pretty lousy one. I am about as *délicat* as you can get. I am also, though, fully conscious of the fact that, if I had won, no defence of full assimilation would have availed me. Do I feel any kinship with the state of Israel? That I can easily answer: No. Do I feel any kinship with Jewry itself? To an extent: for one thing, how could so resplendent a religion fail to move and thrill me, for all that I do not practise it? Do I feel part of a genealogical chain? Inevitably, my up-



bringing would see to that, though my home was not religious. Well, then; do I feel a special sympathy for a Jew in trouble? No; but I do feel a special pain when I hear of a Jew who has behaved badly.

As you say, none of that gets us any further. Yet I think Mordecai Vanunu should be released. For one thing, though it may be dismissed as hardly touching the case, I believe that Israel's position is irretrievably damaged by the kidnapping (which, incidentally, also broke the rules of diplomatic relations). I am aware that Eichmann was also abducted by Israeli agents, but Eichmann was *hostis humani generis*, and whatever offence Vanunu may have com-

mitted under Israeli law, Israel's entire legal system is stained by that one criminal act of abduction. Apart from anything else, if the crime that Vanunu committed was as serious as Israel argues, Vanunu would have been extradited to stand trial.

If there is one country in the world in which a scrupulous adherence to law should be the foundation of its very existence, it is the Jewish state, whose people have throughout the centuries been denied justice again and again. Israel is entitled to say that its very existence is denied now, ringed as it is by enemies, so that anything or anyone jeopardising that existence must be severely

punished. And has not Mordecai Vanunu been severely punished? Are not six years of incarceration in grim conditions sufficient? Would not such clemency redound to Israel's credit?

The quality of mercy is not strained, I tell you; it is twice blessed. You only have to look out of the window to see that it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven, and any child could tell you that it blesses him that gives and him that takes. During the Gulf war, Israel acted with astonishing restraint; though everything in its history clamoured for action, it held its hand, and rightly. That was wisdom; so would be the release of Mordecai Vanunu.



...and moreover
MATTHEW PARRIS

Last week, in the Derbyshire village of Elton, 46-sop's *Fables* met *Popular Mechanics* in a setting that might have been arranged by Baron Münchhausen. A horse sat on a Reliant, completely destroying it.

After a lifetime of reading those bite-sized snippets in "other news" that only leave you thirsting for more — "Transvestite downs jet", "Cat savages sheep", "Whirlwind deposits cow on mountain top" — here was a story I could follow up for full details.

The horse, Mr President, aged 12, is bay with a black tail and four legs. He stands 17½ hands and weighs half a ton. He's doing fine. The Reliant was a Reliant Regal, aged 21, mostly turquoise with purple doors and three wheels. It stood 11 hands and weighed a quarter of a ton. It is now in a heap at Mawstone quarry.

The horse belongs to Jeremy, but Simon was riding it when the incident occurred. The Reliant belonged to Mr Williams, but he was not in it: it was parked at the roadside. Both the horse and the Reliant were insured.

was understandably haphazard. For an awful instant he seemed to veer towards an almost new J-ag Audi. Then — perhaps retaining some kind of equine mercy even in this moment of distress — he changed tack at the last minute and approached the Reliant, in reverse.

The front end of a Reliant's bonnet presents a sharp, flat, horizontal edge, about three feet across, from headlight to headlight. This edge, elevated approximately three feet from the ground, is at just about the level of a horse's hocks. It was into this that Mr President backed.

According to eyewitness accounts, it was as if two karate chops had been delivered simultaneously behind both the horse's knees. All of a sudden, Mr President sat down. He sat down in a very decisive fashion, in the middle of the bonnet of the Reliant Regal. There was an ear-splitting crash, followed by the sound of tearing fibreglass.

The entire front end of the Reliant disintegrated. The horse's bottom passed through the bonnet and came to rest on the steel housing encasing the single front wheel. The wheel collapsed, squishing sideways. The front end of the automobile finished up resting on the tarmac, the back end of the horse ended its journey surmounting the heap of ripped fibreglass resting on the broken wheel.

Simon slid backwards on to the windscreen wipers. Simon dismounted, unhurt. Mr Pres-

ident sat there for some time, not without dignity, a wing mirror to each side of his haunches. It seemed he was happy where he was, though we now know that his tail was caught in the folds of the bonnet.

He was encouraged to pull himself free, and eventually did so. As he rose, the rest of the front end of the Reliant fell to the ground in pieces. Mr President was led away for minor surgery. He went quietly.

Mr Williams took it very well. The car had sentimental value, not just to him but to the whole village, and when Jeremy discovered that Mr President's insurance was unlikely to reflect this in their pay-out, which would hardly buy Mr Williams another car that worked, he decided to keep the no-claims bonus on his horse and set out for Sheffield in search of another Reliant.

He returned with this on Friday. It was a Robin, not a Regal, 10 years younger, though — as Mr Williams pointed out — not quite so big. To cavil, however, would have been to look a gift Reliant in the mouth, and Mr Williams is too big a man for that.

Mr President's bottom is healing well after 11 stitches. Mr Williams looks pleased with his new car. So you could call it a happy ending. But I walked over to Mawstone quarry on Sunday morning. Lying there is a melancholy heap of turquoise fibreglass with a clump of horse-hair emerging from the rubble that was once a bonnet. It was rather poignant.

Right-on radicals

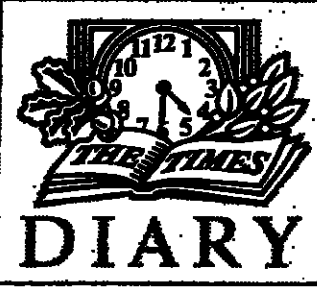
CRITICS may have declared it dead and buried, but the No Turning Back Group, the praetorian guard of Thatcherism, is undergoing a sharp renaissance. In spite of losing a fifth of its members at the election, most notably the cabinet hopefuls Francis Maude and Michael Fallon, the group is now enlisting the brightest of the new breed at Westminster.

David Willetts, former head of the Centre for Policy Studies and one of the foremost brains in the former prime minister's Downing Street think-tank, is the most high-profile recruit to the group, whose president, of course, is the soon to be ennobled Margaret Thatcher.

Already marked out as a future Tory leader or Chancellor, Willetts has joined alongside Bernard Jenkin, son of the former cabinet minister Lord Jenkin of Roding, and John Wakeham, Whitehall's Thatcher's last political secretary at Downing Street and followed her out of office.

All three were quick to be labelled as rebels through signing the early-day motion urging the government to make a fresh start on Maastricht. Now that the Irish have made clear their wish to go ahead with the treaty, other new MPs are expected to sign up. With Michael Portillo and Peter Lilley around the cabinet table, and Dame Angela Rumbold deputy chairman of the party, the group already has a serious force within the inner sanctum.

Certain colleagues believe membership can only brighten career prospects under John Major. But Willetts, MP for Havant, insists the new recruits have no intention of alienating the prime minister. "We are trying to help



develop a free-market agenda for the 1990s. John Major spoke on a similar theme at the Adam Smith Institute only last week. It is good for the party to have ideas vigorously debated," he says.

Michael Brown, MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes, who co-ordinates the group, says he is constantly being pestered by new members wishing to join. "There is as much competition to join us as there is to get into the cabinet," he boasts.

One of the first conservation battles facing Jonathan Dimbleby, the newly elected president of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, will be on his own doorstep. The result is expected any day of a public enquiry into plans to build a relief road near his country house at Upper Swinwick, near Bath. The broadcaster has already made clear his views about the proposed Bathaston bypass. A "violation" and "a dog's breakfast" was how he originally described the scheme at the enquiry.

Name-Czech

AS commentators yesterday toyed with new names for the Czech lands, following their divorce from Slovakia, there appeared to be only one suggestion of any consequence — Bohemia. The map-

sodic tide, redolent of culture and empire, would almost certainly sit easily with both Moravians and Silesians. A brief cull of history books produces such vibrant Bohemian events as the murder of Wenceslas the Holy by his brother Boleslav in 935, the burning of Jan Hus by Roman Catholics in 1415 and the notorious defenestration of Prague, when two of Rudolf II's Protestant councillors were ejected from the window of Hradcany Castle.

But Bohemia, which has inspired the lifestyles of students everywhere, has also made its mark in the literary world, inspiring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to write about Sherlock Holmes's only love, Irene Adler, and the King of Bohemia. Present day products, however, are less romantic. The area we now call Bohemia is the home of the plastic explosive Semtex.

With inimitable timing, the BBC is launching a new television drama shot in London Zoo. Screening of *Justin Cartwright's* *Whitbread-prizewinning novel* Look at it this way is due only

Look at it this way... No redundancy payments.



Battle honours

THE FINAL chapter in the life of Alain-Fournier, one of France's greatest 20th-century authors, is soon to be played out in a military cemetery near the battlefield of Verdun.

The writer, whose mystical novel *Le Grand Meaulnes* has won universal acclaim over the years, perished in the bloody battle of the Great War. But the location of his body has remained a mystery ever since. Last year, remains were discovered in woodland near where he was believed to have died. After months of painstaking examination by doctors and archaeologists, the French authorities have decided that they do indeed belong to Alain-Fournier.

The author will now be buried in the cemetery at Saint-Rémy-La-Calonne next to the 15 other soldiers of his troop who were killed with him. A tomb will be built in the cemetery where his numerous admirers can pay homage. It is a fitting end to the riddle which has dogged the French literary establishment for more than 75 years, but one which Meaulnes himself would probably have preferred unsolved.



CALL THEIR BLUFF

Even before the election in April, the government was fearful that the recommendations of the top salaries review board would be unacceptably high. That is why the review was postponed until the political weather was calmer. Officially, the report has not yet reached government. Even so, there are rumours of approaching thunder. The leak in some newspapers, mentioning figures of up to 30 per cent, look like controlled use of a lightning conductor to diminish the ferocity of the coming storm.

John Major's case against massive rises for top civil servants and others covered by the review ought by now to be watertight. Has he not trenchantly lectured the private sector more than once on the foolishness and injustice of top people in industry awarding themselves huge pay increases, especially at a time of recession and high unemployment? And in the private sector has not the battle against inflation and in favour of international competitiveness, not to mention company solvency, been used to urge self-restraint on unions and their members?

In the civil service there are not even sudden spurts in enterprise and wealth creation to justify departure from the general level of pay. If pay rates at the top of the private sector have moved upwards at an excessive rate — which is what Mr Major has repeatedly suggested — the claim that public-sector top pay should move up at the same rate merely for the sake of comparability is to call Mr Major's bluff. He should return the compliment. For there is little more than bluff at the heart of the case for top-pay comparability.

Behind it lies an assumption that the best civil servants will abandon their Whitehall careers, to the great detriment of the quality of public administration in Britain, if they can make significant improvements in their pay and conditions by moving to the private sector. This is what the pay review body's

terms of reference call "having regard to problems of recruitment and retention". But the quality of those attracted to the civil service is as good as it has ever been — there is even concern that the proportion from Oxford and Cambridge is rising. The British civil service is still a high quality machine, and there is no evidence that it is losing its best talent.

The civil service recruits those who want the status and satisfaction of public service, job security (especially in a time of private-sector retrenchment), smooth career progress and a guaranteed inflation-proof pension, and who do not mind a life of bureaucratic caution and relative anonymity. These qualities are not those suited to life as a high-risk capitalist entrepreneur. A former civil servant who thrives in that environment would be a misfit in the public sector, and his recruitment by private industry would be a gain to the nation, not necessarily a loss.

The case for civil service pay comparability is similar to the fallacy that was trotted out to excuse massive increases for the chairman and chief executives of newly privatised industries. In almost every case, the top managers in question had held the same positions for some time before privatisation, for much lower pay. If the comparability principle is true, why had they not been drawn away by higher pay offers sooner?

The logical flaw in the comparability procedure is that the adjustments it is supposed to identify are to be made after the event: they are not to keep pace with some notional market value of a civil servant's talents, but to catch up with it about every five years. The comparability adjustments proposed would affect the pay only of those who have opted to stay in the public sector for other reasons. They have made their choice in their own interests. They cannot expect extra rewards for it as well.

NO EASY DIVORCE

The parliament of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic meets today to appoint the federal government which is to hold the ring while the assemblies of each republic prepare for existence as separate sovereign states. On the surface, nothing could be clearer. Yet little is certain about the eventual outcome of the "quickie divorce" agreed early on Saturday morning between Vaclav Klaus, leader of the main Czech party, and his Slovak counterpart Vladimir Meciar.

Mr Klaus, who campaigned in the parliamentary elections earlier this month on a platform of maintaining the Czechoslovak federation and pursuing rapid market reforms, now insists that "with a heavy heart" the quick creation of two independent states is the only solution to Slovak separatism. Mr Meciar, whose Movement for a Democratic Slovakia won 37 per cent of the Slovak vote by demanding "an economic and defence union of two sovereign states", now insists that the Bratislava accord "does not mean the end of the common state".

Under the federal constitution, there are two routes to separation: a treaty signed by both Czech and Slovak national parliaments which would dissolve the republic — theoretically possible by September — or after a referendum on secession in either or both parts of the republic, leading to its dissolution more than a year later. It is Mr Klaus, paradoxically, who is pressing for the more rapid route and Mr Meciar who seeks to keep the republic in being for at least another 18 months while negotiating a confederal union rather than outright separation. All that unites the two men is the conviction that they cannot, under the present constitution, work together.

Although Mr Klaus did not seek the dissolution of the 74-year-old federation, he is not bluffing when he says that "if it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well it were done quickly". He dismissed Mr Meciar's proposals for a loose confederation as a device to extract continuing federal subsidies

while pursuing the goal of full independence. But he is holding Mr Meciar's hands close to the fire of separatism not out of malice, but because he is not prepared to put his market reforms at risk for the sake of a shadowy and probably unworkable political fudge.

The elections earlier this month were not just about nationalism, but about diametrically opposed economic philosophies. Mr Klaus has been one of Central Europe's most determined advocates of rapid progress towards a share-owning democracy. Mr Meciar, a former communist youth organiser, owes his popularity in Slovakia as much to his opposition to the Klaus shock therapy as to his championing of Slovak statehood. So long as the federal parliament exists, Mr Meciar can summon a majority to block economic reforms.

Slovakia has been hardest hit by the unemployment accompanying market reforms. The communist years bequeathed to Slovakia the lion's share of filthy, un-economic smokestack industries and redundant weapons factories, and left it far more vulnerable than the Czech lands to the collapse of the Soviet market. Mr Meciar has played on genuine Slovak grievances that their special difficulties have been given too little attention in Prague. But instead of receiving a larger share of the federal cake, Slovaks are now faced with relying, imminently, on their own resources. This divorce could turn nasty.

President Havel would have preferred to see Czechoslovakia a full member of the European Community before discussing a separation that would then have assumed less significance. But President Havel needs to persist in trying to persuade the two sides to hold a referendum, once the terms are settled. The Slovaks have every right to split, but it would be a tragedy if they were to be stuck with the worst consequences of Mr Meciar's nationalist demagoguery. This weekend's deal has at least the merit of uncovering the hazards ahead.

SWEET STONEHENGE DREAMS

Stonehenge comfortably survived its annual trial by summer solstice yesterday morning. The relative tranquillity of the event — there was no riot at sunrise and only three of the 32 arrests were serious enough for the police to press charges — recalled the days before drugs, drunks and druids made this bizarre expression of midsummer-night madness so fashionable. Those days of benign neglect are unlikely to return. Even without the interest generated by Stonehenge's status in fringe mysticism, the problems facing its present curator, English Heritage, are those of managing tourism on a massive scale.

The New Age is a pseudo-religious movement well known for irrational shifts of attention, so thanks to continuous police pressure the fascination with Stonehenge may at last be passing. And by coincidence or not, the overall number of paying visitors to Stonehenge also dropped last year, reversing the gradual rise of previous years. A period out of fashion, in tourism as in esotericism, would do Stonehenge no harm.

What may also be contributing to this general decline in interest is public exasperation with the arrangements for visitors at Stonehenge, which are primitive and repulsive. In a grim example of the least usefully municipal postwar architecture, a bleak concrete foot-tunnel leads towards the perimeter of the monument from a bare sunken yard containing ticket office, tea bar and public toilets.

Here English Heritage finds itself caught between a rock and a hard place. For the sake of national pride if nothing else, tourist facilities for the 700,000 a year who visit northern Europe's premier prehistoric site need to be improved. But Stonehenge is not

large, appreciation of its atmosphere is not enhanced by the presence of thousands of others doing the same. But if the present unattractive conditions for tourists have the benefit of discouraging them, improvements will have the opposite effect.

English Heritage has a project to spend £10 million on improving Stonehenge. Wiltshire County Council has refused planning permission, and last week English Heritage formally appealed against this refusal to Michael Howard, environment secretary. Of all the scheme's proposals — for a new access road and architecturally distinguished visitor's centre with viewing area, for new car parks, and for neighbouring road realignments — one detail at least certainly deserves to survive Mr Howard's adjudication. It is a simple and ingenious solution to the monument's most acute problem, tourist overload. Visitors who want to get near the stones will have to walk a mile and a half across country.

That will be too far, and take too long, for the coachloads of blue-rinse elderly Americans for whom Stonehenge is little more than a "comfort stop" on the way to Magna Carta at Salisbury. It is a clever way of limiting access to a vulnerable historic monument not by price or barred wire but by inconvenience. And doubtless what attracts unwelcome attention each summer solstice is the chance to challenge the authority of those who forcibly deny public access to the famous stones. Better access all the year round, at least for those willing to make an effort, may end this futile annual game of cat and mouse. Wiltshire police may then again be able to spend midsummer night dreaming of Stonehenge — in their own beds.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Role of a prying press in protecting the public interest

From Mr Gerald Long

Sir, I have just heard a critic of the press protesting, in a BBC programme, that the recent coverage of events concerning the royal family proved that self-regulation of the press could not work, and demanding that some organism concerned with so-called abuses of press freedom should be given teeth. This usual call of the denitronist lobby is itself an abuse, since it seeks to exploit in a campaign for press censorship the affection and respect many Britons feel for their royal family.

Unfortunately, the success of such a campaign cannot be discounted, since British public opinion already tolerates important restrictions of press freedom, including repressive laws of libel and provisions governing contempt of court and so-called official secrets.

Full freedom of expression exists only where there is no prior restraint on publication, where anything may be published subject to the sanctions of laws applying to all citizens, not of special press laws, which are of their nature repressive.

Part of the price of such freedom is occasional abuse, and the possible embarrassment of private persons as well as public figures. We may not like it, but you cannot sanction irresponsible journalism without restricting the responsible and necessary exercise of freedom of expression.

The would-be censors should tell us how far they would have censorship go. Should the press not be free to report on the content of books that are legally published? The issue of serialisation in newspapers in the

present case is an irrelevance, since the events presented in the book as fact, not speculation as the censors tend to say, would have been reported in normal reviews. Or would the censors also have inconvenient books suppressed, beyond the restrictions already imposed by law?

This is not a rhetorical question, experience suggests they would. In another case presently in the public eye newspapers are accused of failing to publish what they knew about possible frauds. Existing laws were responsible for their restraint. There is a case for more freedom, not less: society cannot have it both ways.

Historical examples show that censorship works only in autocratic systems which deny all rights to the citizen: this is small comfort, since censorship already represents a major curtailment of those rights. Much more is at stake here than the necessarily restricted right to privacy of public figures, who in any event hold in their own hands the key to respect of that privacy.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD LONG
(Chief Executive, Reuters, 1963-81).
15 rue d'Aumale, 75009 Paris.
June 14.

From the Chairman of the Australian Press Council

Sir, The Calcutt committee may have rejected the American public-figure defence but this does not mean that American public figures have sacrificed the right to privacy ("Public lives, private pain", June 10).

Public figures may still be successful in defamation in the USA. They have to prove falsity, which should

usually be simple. They also have to satisfy the court that the media know that what they published was untrue; alternatively that the publication was made with reckless disregard of whether it was true or false.

Americans, unlike the English, can sue for breach of privacy even if they are public figures. In some cases public figures will find it more difficult, but not impossible. Ralph Nader is one example; Jacqueline Onassis another, having been successful on three occasions.

On the whole, American laws strike a balance which favours the public's right to know rather than over-protecting the private reputations of public figures — as English law did in the case of the late Robert Maxwell.

In the common law world, at least in the old Commonwealth, only Australian law is more protective. Australia also lacks the amelioration of the European Convention and the European Court of Human Rights which have had a significant impact on English law. Recent royal commissions in Australia into corruption and mismanagement have been triggered by the media. These could have been established earlier had the media not been so restricted by our present laws.

Whatever their weaknesses, the British media need no new legislative shackles. After all, the quality press and broadcast media are still the envy of most countries, even under the present restraints.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID FLINT, Chairman,
Australian Press Council,
Suite 303, 149 Castlereagh Street,
Sydney, New South Wales 2000.

Questions surrounding arrest of Maxwells

From the Director of the SFO

Sir, Mr Caplan and Mr Dover (letters, June 20) draw attention to the timing of the arrest of Kevin and Ian Maxwell and the fact that the television cameras and the national press were present.

Soon after I joined the SFO in April I asked the police why it was necessary to make arrests early in the morning. I received what seemed to me the very reasonable reply that it is the time of day when you are most likely to find people at home. In fact it is when many people are about to leave for work.

As to the presence of the news media I am not aware that any member of the SFO, or the City of London Police, informed them that arrests were about to take place. Indeed, for obvious reasons, it is our firm policy to keep matters of this nature confidential until after they have taken place. It is not perhaps surprising that the news media were present as both Kevin and Ian Maxwell have been the subject of close media interest for some time.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE STAPLE, Director,
Serious Fraud Office,
Elm House, 10-16 Elm Street, WC1.
June 21.

Attorney's decision

From Lord Shawcross

Sir, A question to the attorney general on June 15 by Mr Greville Janner seemed to assume that the ultimate responsibility for deciding whether there is sufficient evidence in a war crimes case to justify prosecution and for proceeding to prosecute lies with the director of public prosecutions. Not so. The attorney general correctly replied:

"The evidence, as and when or if and when it appears, and appears to be sufficient to give rise to a prosecution, will be assessed against the ordinary criteria, without fear or favour, affection or ill will."

But what are the ordinary criteria? It is the duty of the attorney general to decide whether, given the necessary evidence, the public interest looked at in the broadest sense would be served by prosecuting. In making up his mind he may have the advice of the director of public prosecutions and Treasury counsel. But the decision is his alone. He must wholly disregard any party political consideration, such as the supposed view of a majority in the Commons.

Yours faithfully,
HARTLEY SHAWCROSS,
House of Lords.

Signs and portents

From Councillor Alex Segal

Sir, Dennis Farr, Director of the Courtauld Institute Galleries (letter, June 16), wonders why Westminster is reluctant to signpost his establishment.

If the council agreed to every request of this nature the unfortunate pedestrian would hardly be able to move for signs. We think our policy of restricting the number of signs improves the appearance of our streets and enables the visitor to appreciate the 11,000 listed buildings in our city.

These, of course, include Somerset House, home to the Courtauld's splendid collection and surely a sufficiently prominent landmark for the visitor to find.

Yours sincerely,
ALEX SEGAL (Chairman, Planning and Development Committee),
Westminster City Council,
PO Box 240, Westminster City Hall,
64 Victoria Street, SW1.
June 17.

Business letters, page 21

False impressions from fingerprints

From Mr Richard D. Ostler

Sir, Despite the encouraging belief expressed by Sir Peter Imbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police (report, June 12), that it is better that 100 guilty men should go free than that one innocent man should be convicted, it seems to me that there exists a high degree of probability that innocent men are being convicted on the basis of totally unreliable fingerprint evidence.

Sixteen corresponding characteristics, agreeing, in sequence, have always had to be proved in order to satisfy a court that two prints were made by the same human finger, palm, foot or toe. It is regarded as an infallible identification; but in recent years, in cases where 16 corresponding characteristics could not be found, so-called "experts" have been producing in court evidence showing as few as 11 characteristics agreeing, and, as with defence forensic scientists, defence fingerprint experts have been brushed aside and the prosecution evidence has been preferred by the judge.

Earlier this year a fingerprint with four characteristics agreeing was tendered in evidence and only with-

drawn at the Crown Court after approaches by the defence to the Crown Prosecution Service representatives. The chances of that fingerprint being that of another were one in 24 or, to put it another way, every twenty-fourth person — male or female — whom you pass in the street could have left that print.

Fingerprint evidence has now been adulterated to such an extent that the police are well on the way to destroying its integrity totally when, if properly used, it is probably the only infallible crime-detection tool available today.

The home secretary would do well to address this issue in order to establish if and just how many miscarriages of justice have occurred through unsatisfactory fingerprint evidence being presented, and if this would serve the public interest well if this was done sooner rather than later.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD D. OSTLER
(Forensic science consultant),
Specialist House,
52-54 Northern Road, Cosham,
Portsmouth, Hampshire.
June 12.

Honour without profit

From Professor Emeritus David J. Finney, FRSE

Sir, Although the British Standards Institution invited me to serve on two of their committees concerned with definition of statistical terms and methods that are widely used in the manufacturing industries I have resigned from both. Attendance at a six-hour meeting in London for an Edinburgh resident can scarcely cost less than £150, yet I am informed that "BSI do not pay expenses to committee members". I estimated that my annual committee duties would cost £800 to £1,500.

Such a rule must go far towards restricting technical consultative advice on some important matters.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
DAVID J. FINNEY,
13 Oswald Court,
South Oswald Road, Edinburgh 9.
June 19.

Danube dam scheme

From Professor Emeritus W. R. Dearman

Sir, Four weeks ago I was fortunate to have the Gabčíkovo dam scheme in Czechoslovakia demonstrated to me on site on the Danube. The concern expressed by Professor Smalley and Dr Dijkstra in their letter of June 12 is perhaps based on a lack of local knowledge of the scheme's engineering geology.

The dam and the embanked canal are, built on the local alluvial river gravels; the dam is of concrete and the embankments utilise the local alluvial sands and gravels. Much

attention has been paid to the stability of the structures, using the same modern geotechnical engineering techniques that are adopted in this country for water-retaining structures.

Only a small length of the upstream embanked canal remains to be constructed. Downstream water is retained behind the dam and for a considerable length of the canal, but not to the final depth.

Yours faithfully,
W. R. DEARMAN,
Plymouth University,
Department of Geological Sciences,
Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon.
June 14.

Rotarian service

From the President of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland

Sir, Your article "Masonry shows its cracks" (Life & Times, June 10) describes the freemasons as "Rotarians with ritual... a mutual support organisation".

I must point out that Rotary International specifically excludes its members and their families from the benefits of the Rotary Foundation's £27 million-a-year charitable activities: this figure includes the foundation's scholarships, the world's largest non-governmental educational grant scheme. Local charitable grants carried out by the 25,000 Rotary clubs around the world are probably worth well over £50 million a year.

Far from being a mutual-support organisation, more than one million Rotarians are daily carrying out humanitarian aid programmes for the young and old, sick and needy, in their local community and overseas. Rotarians have recently raised £135 million to enable the World Health Organisation to immunise the world's children against polio. "Service above self" is our watchword, and we practise it.

Yours etc.,
NEVILLE F. HACKETT, President,
Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland,
Kinwarton Road,
Alcester, Warwickshire.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Putting a stop to wheel-clampers

From the Director General of the AA

Sir, Now that the Justiciary Appeal Court in Edinburgh has ruled that wheel-clamping on private land is illegal in Scotland (report, June 13) may we hope that common sense may similarly be applied south of the border?

Because the law is different, motorists in England and Wales still have no protection from wheel-clamp extortionists. As recently as last week an AA member at Hebdon Bridge, Yorkshire, was ordered to pay £240 for the release of his car, which had been clamped while parked on private land (though the sum was later reduced to £210).

The government must act now to curb the excesses of off-street wheel-clampers, and regulate their activities with a statutory code of conduct.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON DYER,
Director General,
The Automobile Association,
Farnham House,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.
June 15.

From Mr Anthony J. W. Rose

Sir, It is in some respects disappointing to learn that wheel-clamping has been ruled unlawful by the Scottish courts. It is not difficult to appreciate that some control should be exercised over wheel-clamping or at least that there should be some code of practice.

However, to argue that the clamping of a motor car is theft by reason of the (temporary) deprivation of a motorist of his motor car seems to me to be unduly contorted. It would be no less contorted to say that the unlawful parking of a motor car was the theft from the landowner of the use of that particular piece of land, possibly being somebody else's lawful parking space.

My office suffers regularly from unauthorised off-street parking and we have a wheel clamp, though we have used it but rarely. When it has been used it has been effective and any fines exacted have been given to charity. Sometimes the reaction of the unlawful parkers on being confronted has been quite brazen: "I know it's a private parking space, but you can't stop me."

Can readers suggest any effective deterrent, if the use of the wheel clamp is now in question?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY ROSE,
The Moss House,
Wighfield Manor,
Apperley, Gloucestershire.
June 16.

Cambridge traffic

From the Mayor of Cambridge

Sir, The ban on all bicycle and motor traffic from the centre of Cambridge is not, as Mr Spriggs claims (letter, June 10), one of the city council's "more extraordinary decisions". Indeed, it was not one of our decisions at all. The ban was imposed by the county council, which is the highways authority, and has been consistently opposed by the city council.

Few political decisions can show more clearly the need for unitary authorities to be formed at the most local level where they can respond to the clear wishes of local people. That citizens, such as Mr Spriggs, do not know who is responsible for the follies they denounce is no grand testimony to democratic accountability.

Yours faithfully,
B. S. GARDINER,
Mayor's Office,
Cambridge City Council,
The Guildhall, Cambridge.

From Mrs Katherine Edgcombe

Sir, Pace Mr Richard Rhodes James (letter, June 16), there is no bicycle ban in Trinity Street; the restriction there applies only to motor vehicles. I have today both walked and cycled down it, enjoying the absence of traffic fumes and hazards.

The success of this arrangement demonstrates that, in areas where pavement and road continue to exist (as they must here, because the traffic ban is only part-time), there is no reason why bicycles and pedestrians should not happily co-exist.

Yours sincerely,
K. EDGCOMBE,
25 St Peter's Road,
Coton, Cambridge.
June 16.

From Miss Mary-Elizabeth Raw

Sir, Traffic-free areas are good for everyone; but problems arise if these become too large. Are the disabled and an increasingly elderly population to be denied the opportunity to shop or to visit interesting places because they cannot walk the distances required?

Yours faithfully,
MARY-ELIZABETH RAW,
40 Milton Green,
Weston-super-Mare, Avon.

Measure for measure

From Mr Michael Grosvenor Myer

Sir, A mathematics teacher of my acquaintance who had ordered 100 metric rulers was informed by the supplier that they were only available in dozens (letters, June 6, 9, 15).

Yours truly,
MICHAEL GROSVENOR MYER,
34 West End, Haddenham,
Cambridge.
June 15.

London NW10 (081-961 5490), Mon.
Bpm The Grand, London SW11 (071-

ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL



DANCE

Even more rite, second time

TELEVISION



In the event, London Weekend Television wilted under the outcry and delayed the episode two weeks until last

Not everyone loves a Winner

ames and had no hand in making it. If they had been called *Ludovic edy's True Crimes or Sue Lawley's Crimes* there would have been complaint. For in reality Saturday-programme was discreet to the of blandness.

eed, the most objectionable as- were the wooden acting and the l, cliché-ridden narration. The e, bargain-basement production was more reminiscent of *Dixon of Green than Death Wish*.

vertheless, doubts remain. There nothing tasteless, at the very least, raking up events that have

The distinction between responsible reporting and dubious titillation is never as clear-cut as the watchdogs of public morality like to think. Censor or suppress a *True Crimes*, and you should apply the same rules to the *Tumbledown*. Otherwise, double-standards are at work: "anything goes" for the intelligentsia, but strict control of the plebeians' pleasures. We would be returning to an era in which a lawyer could ask a jury: "Would you allow your wife and servants to read this?" The Winner dilemma is more about class distinction than public morality.

RICHARD MORRISON

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E

A fair cop casts off the Jersey

John Nettles, forever Bergerac in some eyes, has returned to his classical roots, playing three Shakespeare roles with the RSC in Stratford this year. He talked to Jeremy Kingston

His eyes are laughing. You don't expect that. There was never much evidence of laughter in the ten years that John Nettles spent sprinting around Jersey busting criminals. Seeing off shady English financiers. Staring down at the body of yet another young girl bobbing in the harbour.

The beard is unfamiliar too, though not to the audiences who have seen him every year but one since 1984 playing the heavy villain in pantomime with Les Dawson. King Rat and Robber Baron must have come as a tonic after filming yet another batch of episodes as Bergerac, the conscience of Jersey. But at the end of the panto season the beard would be shaved off and he was back keeping the peace in St Helier.

Bergerac wrapped up his final case last year, and here is Nettles in Stratford-Upon-Avon, opening next week in Adrian Noble's production of *The Winter's Tale*. He plays Leontes, the tyrant whose crazed jealousy plunges his kingdom into disarray, killing his son, and all but killing his wife and daughter. From September, he will be playing Page, the unjealous of the two husbands in *The Merry Wives Of Windsor*, and when *Antony and Cleopatra* joins the repertoire in November, his role will be Octavius Caesar. He sums up his three characters: "A jealous husband, a genial husband, and a vicious bastard."

Though his name is now inescapably linked to Jersey — he refers to his house there as his home — Stratford is familiar country. A member of the Royal Shakespeare Company for six years from 1976, his first appearance on the main stage was, curiously, in the same play that has brought him back.

Ian McKellen played Leontes,

and I played Time. I was on three-foot-high buskins, and carried a bear's head — the idea being that the bear was really Time or the agent of Fate. I had a mask, with a microphone inside, and I was very nervous. Two years after that, I was in Peter Brook's production of *Antony and Cleopatra*, playing two very small parts, which I did awfully."

By the time he left for Bergerac his roles had become more substantial. "I was playing the Festes, the Thersites, the Lucios, what I would

'I can't pretend I never missed this place. Or a company like this'

call the Fantasticks." If he had stayed with the company, might he have gone on to play Leontes years ago? "That was the way it was going. But that's the way acting goes. You get whipped off into a different market place, and spend ten happy years doing something else. But I can't pretend that I never missed this place. Or a company like this."

"I did 92 episodes of Bergerac, far too many in some respects. And I thought, what I'd really like to do is go back to do some acting. With real people as opposed to doing it for cameras. And with a text which betrayed some signs of subtlety, as opposed to the Bergerac ones that towards the end didn't. The huge difficulty of playing established characters on television is you have little room to manoeuvre. People want a repetition of the same thing over and over again."

Unlike the majority of actors, he did not pass his schooldays yearning to go on the stage. "I'll tell you how that happened. Antony in *Antony and Cleopatra* sends his old schoolmaster to Octavius to plead on his behalf. This indicates to me that schoolmasters were held in great esteem in Shakespeare's day. They were the keepers of your soul for the length of time you were with them. They taught you, they were your creators in a very real sense, after your father and your mother. Where I went to school was in a grotty, working-class area of Cornwall, the heavy industry area, clay-mining, all that stuff. We had our various ambitions. Mine was to be in a pop group, and make a sound like Eddie Cochran. The horizon of the world was St Austell Bay. Plymouth was beyond ken."

"But then came the exotically-named Frederick Farnham Flower. He took over the English department in a run-down grammar school, called us 'day-souled Cornishmen', which indeed we were, and in the space of about two years turned the whole institution around. From being a Borsal-on-Sea, it became a decent educational establishment. He pointed the way for me, and many others like me, to explore our talents. It wasn't effeminate to study poetry; it wasn't infra dig to want to go to university and pursue intellectual ideas."

"And among other things, he introduced drama to the school, and he gave me Macbeth when I was 15! I killed a lot of third-formers. I knew bugged-all about iambic pentameters, but I knew a good fight when I saw one. That's where it all started. A teacher can turn a man's life round, inside half an hour. Perhaps something like that happened to Shakespeare at Stratford Grammar School. 'Hey, you, here's a miracle play to read,'



John Nettles, on the bank of the Avon in Stratford: time to "go back to do some acting"

"So I went to university to study philosophy and history. I was going to be a minor academic. I think, before all this happened. Then in the NUS Drama Festival, I played Caligula in Camus's play, and the great and wonderful Harold Hobson gave me a nice review. We had a short season in London as part of our reward for winning the NUS

competition, and a man appeared who turned out to be one of the foremost agents at that time. He said: 'I'd like to represent you', assuming I wanted to be an actor. So I quickly did want to be an actor."

"I'm a very happy thespian, at the moment. I didn't expect to come back here at least for a year or two, until I'd done something else,

to re-prove myself, so to speak. But here I am."

Thanks to Adrian Noble for inviting him. Thanks to his own abilities. Thanks, too, to Mr Flower.

● *Previews of The Winter's Tale begin in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 295623) on Thursday; the first night is July 1.*

JAZZ

From both sides now

BACK again with his introspective trio, John McLaughlin was joined at the Festival Hall by classical pianist Karin Labèque. It was by no means the first time the pair have worked together. They recently recorded a series of duets, and McLaughlin was the composer of several pieces on the Labèque Sisters' album *The Love of Colours*.

The first half of the evening was given over to McLaughlin's group, dominated by TrioX. Gurtu's sprawling percussion set. At times playing complex Eastern rhythms, at others more conventional jazz patterns, Gurtu engaged in extended dialogues with McLaughlin's acoustic guitar, the electric bass player Dominique di Piazza sometimes reduced to the role of onlooker. Trying to keep track of the sub-divisions of metre was exhausting, although fragments of melody would spin loose at times.

Labèque appeared after the interval, laying down gentle, impressionistic chords as McLaughlin picked at the melody of "Blue In Green". A series of slender and self-conscious improvisations followed until the musicians crashed into Chick Corea's mock-classical composition "Spain", built around a sliver of Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*. This rather brittle evening closed with a good humoured onslaught on Monk's "Rhythm-a-ning", rounded off by a tongue-in-cheek rock 'n' roll climax.

Lovers of classy singing should note that Madeline Bell's residency at Ronnie Scott's has been extended to Saturday, due to the cancellation of Billy Eckstine's visit. Bounding on, she looked like an advertisement for the virtues of a gymnasium. Not an ounce of fat on the voice either.

Supported by a chunky, blues-rock band, she delivered a mixture of jazz and soul standards with nonchalant authority. One highlight was "The Singer", a ballad by George Farnie and Steve Gray, composed for a yet-to-be-staged musical. Almost 20 years after the demise of Blue Mink, Bell could easily ditch "Meat and Pot", but she sings it anyway, for old time's sake.

CLIVE DAVIS

OPERA: MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO

Few darling buds in this May



Good singing: Bacelli, Cuperli and Rodgers in *Figaro*



"There is no doubt that some teachers have an attitude problem and disbelieve in exceptional ability."

This Friday The TES talks to parents of gifted children.

TES

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I fear that 1992 will not go down in the annals of the Maggio Musicale as a vintage year, at least as far as mainstream opera is concerned. Indeed, on the evidence of the dismal performances of *La forza del destino* and *Le nozze di Figaro* last weekend, it should be the occasion for some hard thinking, if the reputation of a venerable institution with a glorious past is to be salvaged.

The main problems were in the pit, where the Maggio's principal conductor, Zubin Mehta, was in charge. For *Figaro* he favoured an overall homogenised sound based on sumptuous string tone and warm, woolly brass, to which the unlovely Teatro Comunale's roomy acoustics added a blandness disastrously at odds with a score that constitutes a sustained, three-hour scream of human pain.

Things were no happier on stage. Of production there was no sign. The decor was practical but ugly, and the lighting embarrassing. Only one member of the cast gave the impression of taking part in an opera performance. Stefka Evstatieva (Leonora). Her soprano is not conventionally beautiful, but it has volume and edge, and she uses it with imagination.

For the rest, Lando Bartolini as Alvaro sang throughout at an unvarying fortissimo and with erratic pitch. Leo Nucci tried to little avail to stretch his Donizetti baritone up to Carlo.

Luciana D'Intino and Roberto Scanduzzi salvaged some vocal distinction as Preziosilla and the Padre Guardiano. Bruno Pola sang Melitone as though he thought he should have been cast as Carlo.

Figaro in the lovely Teatro della Pergola could only be a

step upwards, because there was at least a production — Jonathan Miller's, familiar in outline from elsewhere, but here none too successful in welding a wildly disparate international cast into a convincing whole.

But again there was the dead hand of Mehta in the pit; this, you felt, was how he remembered *Figaro* going in Vienna when he was a student: lugubrious tempos, sentimental allargandos, thick, woolly sound.

At least there was some good singing, especially from Joan Rodgers as a bright, aware and thoughtful Susanna. Her *Figaro* was the enormously promising Michele Pertusi: a fine voice, imposing presence, but rather monochromatic in delivery: if only there had been someone to discuss Mozart style with him.

Thomas Hampson played the Count as a larkly college boy, but he sang very impressively. Lella Cuperli as the Countess deserves a medal for managing to sustain "Dove sono" at Mehta's Brucknerian adagio.

Monica Bacelli's Cherubino had an attractive vinegary edge to her mezzo and looked ideal. Elsewhere there were some dispiriting outbreaks of coarse operatic performance. And much though I relished Laura Zannini's Fellini-esque Marcelina, I couldn't really believe in her as a member of this particular household. Not Miller at his disciplined best, then — and how odd that he should have resorted to so many sight-gags when for once the audience was understanding the words — but thank heavens he was there.

RODNEY MILNES

ARTS BRIEF

Moving house

KEITH COOPER, the public relations wizard responsible for English National Opera advertising itself with posters of brawny, bare-chested stagehands and chiffon-clad sopranos, is quitting the Coliseum to become director of public affairs at the Royal Opera House. The appointment marks something of a turn-around by the Covent Garden management: the previous PR supremo, Ewen Balfour, was made redundant last year in an attempt to prune costs. Perhaps Covent Garden feels it needs PR expertise more than ever.

Last chance...

WITH a sizeable portfolio of hits at her disposal, Lisa Stansfield has fashioned a unique "English soul diva" persona. She plays Newport Centre (0633 259670) tomorrow; and NEC Birmingham (021-780 4133), Wednesday.



COMMENT

New dance needs a firmer footing



Duncan: going home

Less than a year after appointing a new artistic director, London Contemporary Dance Theatre once again finds itself in a directorial muddle. Nancy Duncan, the American who took over Britain's largest contemporary dance company last August, has resigned from the position "in order to resume her career in the United States". The search is now on for a successor.

In the interim, LCDT is turning to its founder artistic director, Robert Cohan, who is coming out of retirement. LCDT went through all this less than two years ago when its former artistic director, Dan Wagoner, left, also to return to America. A search for his replacement proved a long and arduous process.

Duncan's sudden and unexpected departure is a serious setback to the company's plans to redefine its artistic priorities. When Peter Sarah took over as chief executive of Contemporary Dance Trust in 1990 he said that "if we are to have a role and have a function, and by extension be funded, we need to have a relevance to the Nineties and I think we have probably got at the most 18 months to fix that."

Those 18 months have now gone, and LCDT is no closer to sorting out its confused artistic identity. At the same time, the company faces an Arts Council appraisal in September, and the funding body will obviously have an opinion on LCDT's future at that time.

Duncan's resignation highlights the problem facing the director of any large-scale repertory contemporary dance company: how to challenge artistic horizons while still remaining accessible to audiences, with works suitable for the large venues LCDT now tours.

LCDT is not alone in its search for a balance between artistic and box-office demands. Rambert Dance Company, despite a strong artistic policy, faces a similar dilemma. The contemporary dance boom of the late Sixties and Seventies has passed, taking big audiences with it. Many now prefer the independent dance sector, where companies such as DV8 and The Cholmondeleys have built up loyal audiences. LCDT and

Rambert are having to work hard to compete.

Perhaps it is time to look at the unrealistic expectations we have for large-scale repertory companies. LCDT and Rambert, who each get more than £900,000 in public funding annually, are expected to fill some of the country's largest theatres, seating 1,500 or so. Yet their natural audience is probably half that number.

More important, though, is whether Britain can even support two large-scale, touring repertory companies. The eventual amalgamation of LCDT and Rambert into one touring troupe must be an option. The idea is not new: it was mooted in a 1987 Arts Council report on contemporary dance touring. But maybe it is an idea whose time has come.

DEBRA CRAINE

PAULINE COLLINS

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previews from Thursday opens on 1 July

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A forgotten face behind the camera

While Tennyson is celebrated, who recalls the female genius who captured his image for posterity? Nicola Murphy reports

When Alfred, Lord Tennyson read *The Times* blistering Crimean War report in November 1854, that someone had blundered in crying forward the Light Brigade, he charged furiously around his estate on the Isle of Wight in broad-brimmed hat and flowing cloak, rending the air with thundering verse.

On Saturday as Lord Mottistone, the Lord Lieutenant of the island, opened a summer of celebrations

marking the centenary of Tennyson's death and bringing hundreds to the scene of that breathless inspiration, the poet must have been raving in his grave — that someone has blundered over Julia Margaret Cameron.

This summer no proud citizens will parade through "Tennyson's Gate" from the poet's home, Farringford, to the neighbouring Dimbola Lodge on Freshwater Bay, the home of his great confidante and photographic pioneer.

Outside the increasingly derelict Cameron property is a demolition sign. With his former home converted into a hotel and Cameron's chalked up for a block of flats, Tennyson, says Jean Flynn, the secretary of the Cameron Trust, "would be spitting venom".

The present Lord Tennyson has already expressed his distaste for the proposal; and as the celebrations begin, Councillor Ronald Smith, the chairman of the centenary, says he has a sour taste in his mouth. "We've got costumed cricket matches and horse-drawn carriages, folk dancing, poets reading, children acting, people singing and hills ringing all over the island. But the prospective demolition gives a bitter flavour to the fun," says Mr Smith, who is also the chairman of the Cameron Trust.

Julia Margaret's portrait of her great friend Tennyson (taken in 1865) is splashed all over the island but soon Cameron House will be smashed to the ground.

Mrs Cameron snapped up two adjacent cottages in Terrace Lane, Freshwater, after her first visit to Farringford in 1860, seven years after the poet had moved there. They had met in Kensington in west London during the 1850s.

"Tennyson's Gate" was built to give private access, the poet carved his name on the great fireplace and a fashionable gothic tower soon connected the buildings to form Dimbola Lodge, named after the Cameron family estates in Ceylon. The two houses are now separated into Cameron House and Dimbola, with the former facing demolition. Joan Howard, the owner of Dimbola, finds her business letting holiday flats is suffering due to the demolition sign next

ter; Ellen Terry was one close neighbour; Browning, Holman Hunt, Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear were all frequent visitors to Freshwater Bay. It was the beauty of the bay that first attracted Tennyson, who had become poet laureate in 1850, and who acted as a magnet to the others. "The Tennyson/Cameron circle with its concern for the holiness of art, its sense of sublimated passion, was affectionately satirised by Mrs Cameron's great-niece," says Dr Brian Hinton, the chief librarian at Freshwater and a Tennyson and Cameron expert. She was Virginia Woolf, the play *Freshwater*.

Mrs Cameron's large wooden box camera immortalised them all. Within a year she was presenting friends with albums and collections to the Royal Photographic Society. Alice Liddell, immortalised as a child by Charles Dodgson in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, was captured, as an adult, by Mrs Cameron's camera.

Confidantes: Cameron's portrait of Tennyson, *The Dirty Monk*, and the photographer, taken by her son

era in the garden of the houses at Freshwater. As a bride aged 16, Ellen Terry's face became famous in a Cameron photograph. It was at Dimbola Lodge that Julia Margaret illustrated Tennyson's Arthurian epic, *The Idylls of the King*. There she took the much, and deservedly, exposed photograph of the 56-year-old poet laureate.

Entitled *The Dirty Monk*, the portrait was described by the contemporary poet Henry Taylor in a letter to Cameron as being "as fine as Tennyson's finest poem". But Cameron was laughed at by the male-dominated photographic establishment, for whom being a woman and an amateur were synonymous. The Photographic Society sneered at her "out of focus, smoky pictures".

At the same time she was very successful among the public, which snapped up her prints. It was not until the turn of the century, after Cameron's death in 1879, that other photographers recognised her work. Now the Royal Photographic Society says there are more inquiries, more theses and more books written about Cameron than any other British photographer. Colin Ford, the curator of the National Museum of Photography,

film and television, considers her "perhaps the best British photographer ever, certainly one of the top six. Mrs Cameron's home was at the heart of Victorian society. Freshwater is the obvious location for a museum."

The Cameron Trust wants the house to become not just a museum but also a photographic work centre. "Tennyson and Cameron were both giants of their age and the artistic water they helped to create at Freshwater is one that can still inspire," Dr Hinton says. Later D.H. Lawrence, Bernard Shaw,

T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden, and John Betjeman were all either to live or stay in Freshwater. As Thackeray's grand-daughter, Hester Thackeray Ritchie, wrote in *Three Freshwater Friends*, her book about Tennyson and Cameron and the painter G.F. Watts published in 1933, "to us that live at Freshwater, every stone has significance, every green lane and path association". Dr Hinton agrees "it's a rich heritage and we are determined to preserve it".

"But as yet we have not been successful in listing the buildings," says Hugh Noyes, the former High Sheriff of Isle of Wight county and a trustee of the Cameron Trust. The environment department has rejected three applications on the grounds that Victorian houses are of no intrinsic historical interest and that these particular ones are "architecturally of no interest and not important enough by association". "But that's simply ridiculous as this property has historical associations as long as your arm," Mr Noyes says.

In fact, the campaign is well and truly stuck. The trust wants to raise £150,000 to buy Cameron House before trying to find the funds to purchase Dimbola, if the Howards are persuaded to sell. But all negotiations with SLM Developments, which has owned the now empty Cameron house for three years and plans to build flats on its site, have broken down because of dispute over the value. "The real figure for Cameron House is £300,000," says SLM's representative, Elizabeth Campbell. Whatever the sum, as yet the campaign has raised £4,000.

"The Office of Museums and Libraries and Southern Arts have offered assistance but they won't give it until we've paid off the developer," Mr Smith says.

Tentative approaches abroad are bringing in money, but slowly. Cameron's work is highly prized by both the Americans and Japanese and raises phenomenal sums. The Mia collection, once belonging to Cameron's sister Mia and one of about 20 highly prized albums which the photographer created and originally presented to friends, sold last year in the United States for a quarter of a million dollars. Signed prints, and glass negatives of her prints, are extremely rare and valuable. In Britain, the Royal Photographic Society has 500 Cameron photographs and the National Portrait Gallery also has a collection; two years ago an untitled Cameron portrait of a child, taken in 1864/65, sold at Christie's in London for £11,000.

But Mr Noyes is gloomy about interest in Cameron in this country. "In Britain we'd rather close our purses and turn our back on our own heritage," he says. "Lord Alfred may not get forgotten but isn't it time this country remembered Julia Margaret Cameron?" Tennyson's answer wouldn't be in any doubt. Both the developer and David Mellor, the secretary for national heritage, have yet to reply.

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1992



Focus on history: "The Rosebud Garden of Girls", taken by Julia Margaret Cameron in the garden of her home on the Isle of Wight and (below) Cameron House, in the foreground, which has been threatened with demolition to make way for a block of flats



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Russia's new refuse-niks

As Moscow loses its empire and finds a ragged army of homeless, a charity turns to the West for help

If ever American aid is to flow freely to Russia after Boris Yeltsin's plea to congress, it is unlikely to trickle down here. A vast plain of stinking, rotting garbage stretches out as far as the eye can see: rusty tins, broken bottles, twisted piping, discarded shoes, torn clothing and bits of flapping plastic. Amid the wheezing and screeching of seagulls, dust carts unload rubbish from Moscow, while bulldozers rev their engines ready to flatten the putrefying mounds. Before they do, a crowd of men and women dressed in rags jostle to grab whatever falls off the back of the lorries. These are the homeless of Russia.

The refuse of society who have nowhere to live but the municipal refuse dump have set up their homes in woods nearby. In one, three men, dressed in old army clothes, soiled western T-shirts and battered shoes, were frying some dubious meat scavenged from the dump over an open fire. Their shelter nearby was a patched-together hovel of cardboard, plywood and plastic sheeting. Inside were makeshift beds, and tables, places to keep their torn clothing, and a clock, radio, plates and other detritus rescued from the dump. Outside they had ingeniously erected a shower, using an old tank and plastic sheeting. Swarms of flies covered everything and the three men smacked themselves continually.

The men's story is typical. They had no papers and were therefore not registered in Moscow and were unable to find work or shelter. One, from Vladivostok, in his forties and with rotten teeth, had served a total of 12 years in prisons all over the former Soviet Union. "I want to work now and earn a living. But no

one will take me. I have been two years here. I'm a trained carpenter but I can't find work. The police hassle us all the time. A few months ago they set fire to our settlement and we lost everything. We had to begin again. We have nowhere else to go."

The number of homeless in Russia is growing alarmingly. Every year the orphanages, prisons and boarding schools for children in care throw out on to the streets more than a million people. They are joined by pathetic pensioners who can no longer subsist on their meagre allowances at a time when inflation is running at 1,000 per cent.

In addition there are about 1.5 million refugees who flee to the cities from the fighting and turmoil in the south. Some 500,000 victims of the earthquakes in Armenia and elsewhere have not yet found permanent shelter. And as Russia pulls back troops of the former Soviet army from Eastern Europe, 700,000 men are huddled under tents and in temporary accommodation, many of them ending up on the streets.

Russia has no tradition of charity, and private attempts to cope with this sudden new disaster have met with indifference and often hostility. Three appeals in newspaper advertisements for the homeless yielded a total this year of only 16 roubles — a paltry 16

pence. But a new volunteer organisation based in Russia called *Pomoshch* — literally translated as "help" — is now trying to co-ordinate action.

Evgeny Tretyakov, one of the founders of *Pomoshch*, has to struggle with widespread suspicion that all volunteer organisations are fraudulent. Bureaucracy imposes extraordinary limitations. Charities have to pay a tax of 40 per cent on all their income. As the government assumes that they are profit-making private organisations. A long history of suspicion of independent volunteer organisations.

'Police hassle us but we have nowhere to go'

Pomoshch has found encouragement overseas, especially in Britain. Mr Tretyakov visited Centropoint in Soho, which runs shelters for young runaways, and has received practical advice on how to mobilise public opinion, gain government support and organise commercial sponsorship. *Pomoshch* receives most of its money from the new and relatively rich commercial banks in Russia, but insists on a totally volunteer organisation running still on a shoestring.

The organisation's aim is to

goad the government into providing proper year-round shelters. After lengthy wrangling it has finally been given two derelict buildings which could eventually accommodate 600 people — a drop in the ocean of homeless in Moscow but an example of how volunteer labour, including the promise of architectural help from Britain, can provide the primitive shelters now lacking. "Before the revolution, there was a network of such shelters provided by the state, religious organisations and even private individuals. All this was abolished by the Bolsheviks in 1917," Mr Tretyakov says.

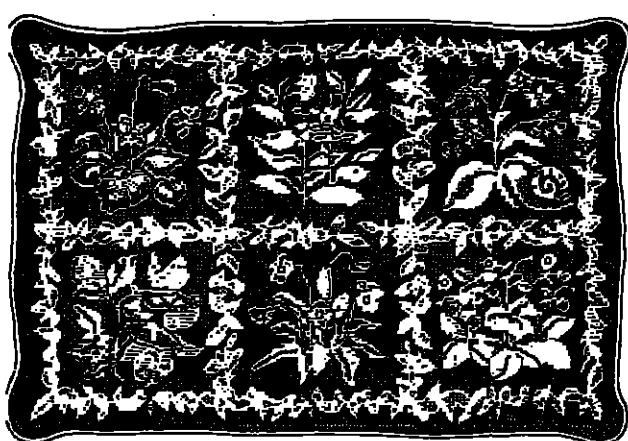
Christian belief strongly motivates most of the charity's volunteers, who distribute Bibles along with food and clothes. They want now to start up regular trains bringing clothing from Western Europe to the cities of the north, where the homeless face a grim fight for survival each winter. The Moscow City Council has announced that it will open a permanent house for 50 elderly people and invalids in the city centre. But by excluding anyone who drinks, takes drugs or has any disease, it will ignore the vast majority of Russia's desperate street people.

Altogether about 2.5 million people are said to be wandering around the European part of the former Soviet Union. *Pomoshch*, founded in 1990, has yet to make the headway needed to cope with homelessness. "So far the British have done more than anyone to help," Mr Tretyakov says. "Whatever they send, I promise will be sent to those in need, including people on our rubbish dumps."

MICHAEL BINYON

A CUSHION OF HERBAL SQUARES FROM

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Margaret Murlon has designed this rectangular tapestry cushion in squares, each containing a different single plant or flower. She has added an occasional small animal — a butterfly, ladybird or snail; and each section is divided by an intersecting, leaf-patterned border. The colours are soft and subdued: strawberry and cherry reds, plum, heather and soft pink, sage and frost-over green, lilac, off-white and jade. The leaf border is in a brighter mix of greens: beech-leaf and emerald; and all these are set on a deep rich background of midnight and forest green. They are the natural colours of the woodland and would fit well anywhere.

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Make your own tour de France

Robin Neillands reports on a home-from-home for the cyclist

France is the perfect country for the cyclist, the place where cyclists are welcome. During the weeks of the Tour de France, the home of the Tour de France, the whole country goes cycling mad. Crowds gather by the roadside to watch the Tour sweep past, reports on the event jam the airwaves and people in bars and cafés talk of little else.

Fascinating as it is, the Tour de France is only the tip of the cycling iceberg. The French are a nation of cyclists and on any weekend the roads are full of them — every age and shape, all dressed in the latest cycling fashions, all riding well-maintained machines and either racing along in little groups or rolling along on their own for an enjoyable day full of fresh air and exercise with a good lunch on the way, *bien sûr*.

The motorist, that bane of the cyclist in Britain, is much more considerate in France, perhaps because so many French motorists are cyclists themselves. All this means that an increasing number of British cyclists are packing their panniers and heading across the Channel. According to the Cyclists Touring Club (CTC) Britain now has more than 15 million cyclists, of whom more than six million cycle regularly for pleasure, with France as the most popular overseas destination.

Cycle touring in France is the ideal family holiday and perfect for those who dislike the structure of the package tour. My accountant, who came to cycling in his mid-forties is even now cycling across the hills of the Languedoc after taking his bike on the flight to Montpellier. Another couple I know regularly cross the Channel on a Friday night and spend the weekend riding around the French country roads which they find safer than English lanes and better provided with small hotels and good restaurants.

Getting to France is simple, even

with a bike. Most airlines will carry cycles free within the baggage allowance and only ask that the cyclist removes the pedals and turns the handlebars parallel to the crossbar for the flight, though it always pays to let them know you are bringing a bike and turn up a little early at the airport.

The regulations covering bikes on British Rail are of Byzantine complexity so wise cyclists will ride to the ferry port if possible but all the ferries carry bicycles either free or for a nominal charge and the cyclists travel at the foot passenger rate. With a choice of nine French ferry ports, running around the coast from Dunkirk to Roscoff, the choice of routes and countryside is very wide and a bicycle is an excellent way to see the sights. I prefer my trips to have a theme. In recent years I have used my cycle to ride down what is known as The Old Front Line of the Great War, from Arras to the Somme via Dunkirk, and followed the route of Henry V's army to Agincourt from Le Havre. Both of these are perfect, easily accomplished, one-week trips for the cycling history buff.

I have toured the calvaires (monuments and "parish-clo" churches) of Finistère in Brittany, after crossing from Plymouth to Roscoff and explored the *châteaux de la Loire* on my bike. This meant putting my bike on the train at Caen and taking it off again at Tours but in France this is not a problem. The SNCF provide good facilities including cardboard wrappers to protect the gears and paintwork. More than 2000 French trains carry bikes every day as part of their "Vélo en bagages-à-main" (bicycle as hand luggage) service where the cyclist simply loads the bike on at one station and takes it off at the destination. SNCF also hire out cycles from a large number of provincial railway stations.

Organised cycle touring holidays are a good preliminary to independent travel. Cycles are provided though some people take their own, and the luggage is carried forward each day by van, which is also used to assist those riders who find the distance or the lunch too much to cope with. Maps are provided offering a choice of routes and every day ends with dinner in a well chosen hotel. Many Alpine resorts have now added mountain biking to their list of activities and will rent out helmets, cycles and maps.



Pedal powered: cyclists enjoying the freedom of the road in the Loire Valley

Most British cyclists prefer to take their own bikes and plan their own itineraries. The new Truckline service from Poole to Cherbourg opens up the possibility of weekends cycling in the Cotentin or a slightly longer trip from south to port, say from Cherbourg south and east around the D-Day beaches to Caen-Ouistreham or down the western coast of the

Cotentin to Mont St Michel. Canoe and home via St Malo. Suitable clothing, a couple of spare inner tubes and a few tools can be put in a set of panniers. I travel everywhere with a set of light Rohan clothing in my saddlebag and that goes down well in both the local garage mechanic who often turn his hand to sorting out any tricky problem with the gears. When a friend fell off and bled his front wheel near Hesdin, the local garage proprietor drove out and fetched the bike, bandaged his wounds and straightened the wheel all within the hour... and this on a Sunday afternoon. A café proprietor at Le

A step ahead in the argot race

Thirty years is about the length of time it has taken me to learn how to speak like a teenager in France. But it's never too late. A command of *le français branché* (literally, plugged in, switched on, with it is vital not just for bona fide teenagers but even more so for adults who would like to appear dued in.

The life-expectancy of most streetwise argot is short. Even the word *branché* is fast going the way of *dans le vent* ("trendy", now obsolete): to be really *branché* you need to be *câblé* (literally wired). So, unless you want to be put down as *ringard* ("square"), chuck your *dico* (dictionary), slip on your *baskets* (trainers) and *walkman* (or, better still, *disco*), and turn on and tune in to just a few key rules and a smattering of up-to-the-minute vocab.

1. Inversion. Known in the parlance as *verlan*, *l'envers* (reverse) backwards words with the syllables in reverse order.
Chébran = *branché*
Meuf = *femme* (woman)
Ceum = *mec* (guy)
Keuf = *flic* (cop). Also note: *ripou* = *pouri*, "bent cop". Hence the film, *Les Ripoux*.
Chélor = *louche* (shady, suspect)
Ouf = *feu* (smoke)
Répe = *père* (father)
Réme = *mère* (mother)

2. Abbreviation and contraction.
Sympa = *sympathique*. Apply to anything or anyone you like.
Max = *maximum*, e.g. *je flippe un max* (I'm going crazy)
A tout à l'heure (see you later)
TVB = *tout va bien*
Ça baigne = *ça baigne dans l'huile* = *TVB*, literally, "it's bathing in oil".
Appart (or *Appi*) = *appartement*.
Manif = *manifestation*, demo.
Endings in "to" are favoured, as in *retro* (*retrograde*).
Ados = *adolescents*, teenagers.
Accro = *accroché*, addict. Originally *la drogue*, you can now be *accro* to just about anything (e.g. *au rap*).
Ecolo = *écologique*, green.

3. Anglo-Americanisms. Plenty of them, combined with a French accent. Monosyllables preferred.
Look, masculine noun e.g. *avoir le look*. Cognates: *être looké*; *relooker* e.g. *"Je vais entièrement relooker mon appart"* — I'm going to redecorate my apartment. Antonym: *sans-look*.
Cool = *génial*. General term of approbation. Antonym: *speedé* or *square*.
Loser, often written *looser* (always pronounced *louzeur*) e.g. *Lui, c'est un loser* (antonym: *winner* — pronounced *ouinneur*).



Fun: noun and adjective e.g. *c'est fun* or *pour le fun*.
Must: as in the phrase *c'est un must*, meaning "must" but also "most".
Prefixes. Usually meaningless but decorative.
Super e.g. *super-cool*, *super-génial*.
Ultra, *hyper*, *mega*. By abbreviation the prefix can become a word in its own right e.g. *giga* (one up from mega); *li* (one up from giga) (synonym: *génial*).
Over e.g. *Je suis overbooké*.
Suffixes
-issime: positive intensifier e.g. *sublimissime*, *généralissime*.
-ette: diminutive e.g. *ma petite amie*.
-age: (NB pronounce the "s") e.g. *crangage* = *super-nul*, a drag (from *craindre*, to fear; note also *gaufre* = *cruint* = something or someone you don't like). Similarly, *bravage* (more noble than *bravade*), *tranquillage* (cosy), *hantage* (difficult), *crados* (disputing) etc.
Hyperbole and superlatives. Dramatic and exaggerated.
S'amuser is out; *s'éclater* (explosive) is in. Cognate terms: *l'explosion* and *l'éclat*.
Délinant (or just *déliné*) = *amusant*.
D'enfer = *bien*, literally "out of hell" e.g. *un look d'enfer*.
Destiny = *providence*, invariable adjective (and adverb) e.g. *une musique destiny*, it's *destiny* in a trip *destiny*. Etymology: *punk* as in *verlan*, *keupunk*.
Craker = *lumber* = *amusant* tall in love, literally "crack up" but *but* on *crack* not just *pour* someone but for things e.g. certain looks, music etc.
If you want to leave don't say *je pars*, but *je m'arrache* (literally, I tear myself) or *je me casse* (I break myself).
Note: understatement is also *hyper-cool* e.g. *Pas triste*, literally "not sad", means funny.
7. Syntax: as little as possible. Omit prepositions (à and de) and articles: *So, sur le plan des vêtements il est excellent* becomes *Plan fringues, il assure* (i.e. he is a snappy dresser). Test your knowledge: *Ça a été ultra-giga, keums et meuf, à tout à l'heure*, *je m'arrache*.

ANDY MARTIN

Passport to France travel offers: Fly or sail to France this summer with T.A.T. and Sealink

Two for the price of one to France

Today *The Times* invites you to take advantage of the third of our exclusive Passport to France travel offers. Readers can save up to £400 by flying to France with T.A.T. European Airlines before August 28, 1992 and taking advantage of an exclusive two tickets for the price of one flight offer.

You can choose to fly from Gatwick to Paris for as little as £139 or to Lyon for £195.

T.A.T. European Airlines, the French independent airline, this year launched new scheduled services from London as part of a £5 million expansion programme. Scheduled operations from Gatwick Airport serve Paris with up to three flights daily and daily flights to Lyon.

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T.A.T. has established a new international base at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, where the airline operates from Terminal 2B. At London Gatwick, T.A.T. operates from the south terminal adjacent to the Gatwick Express rail service providing fast, convenient access to Victoria station in central London.

T.A.T. is matching its international growth with a fleet re-equipment programme, and new aircraft. There are almost 70 aircraft in the fleet.



Sacré-Cœur: Paris in the summer

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. This offer is valid for travel exclusively on T.A.T. European Airlines scheduled services between Gatwick Airport and Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, and Lyon, during July and August. Return travel must be completed by Friday, August 28, 1992.

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Succeeding deceased tenant

Clause need not apply to all

Waltham Forest London Borough Council v Thomas
Before Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths, Lord Lowry, Lord Mustill and Lord Slynn of Hadley
[Speeches June 18]

In order to qualify for succession to a secure tenancy under section 87 of the Housing Act 1985, a successor must have resided with the deceased tenant during the period of 12 months ending with the tenant's death. The section did not require the residence to have taken place for the whole 12 months in the house to which succession was claimed. There was no justification for implying any other requirement.

The House of Lords so held allowing an appeal by the defendant, Mr Gary Thomas, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith) (*The Times* February 18, 1991; [1991] 89 LGR 729) dismissing Mr Thomas' appeal from an order dated July 1, 1990, of Judge Buxton, QC, in Bow County Court. The judge had ordered that the plaintiffs, Waltham Forest London Borough Council, should recover possession of premises at Stockfield Road, Walthamstow.

Section 87 of the 1985 Act provides: "A person is qualified to succeed the tenant under a secure tenancy if he occupies the dwelling-house as his only or principal home at the time of the tenant's death and . . . (b) he is another member of the tenant's family and has resided with the tenant throughout the period of 12 months ending with the tenant's death . . ."

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Miss Heather Williams for Mr Thomas; Mr John Perry, QC and Mr Kevin R. Metzger for the council.

LORD TEMPLEMAN said that for about two and a half years Mr Thomas made his home with his brother, Webster, in a council house at Juniper Court, Morris Road, which belonged to the council and was let by it to Webster. The letting was a secure letting for the purposes of the Housing Act 1985 and Webster had security of tenure. Mr Thomas was a person contingently qualified to succeed to the tenancy by virtue of section 87 of the 1985 Act.

Section 113 of the Act defined a tenant's family in terms which included a brother.

On April 11, 1988 both brothers changed their home to premises at Stockfield Road, Walthamstow, which was let to Webster by the council. Webster ceased to be a secure tenant of the premises at Juniper Court and became a secure tenant of the premises at Stockfield Road. Webster died on April 21.

Mr Thomas claimed to have succeeded to Webster's secure tenancy of the Stockfield Road premises under section 87 of the 1985 Act because (a) he occupied those premises as his only home when his brother died; (b) he was a member of the brother's family and (c) he had resided with his brother throughout the period of 12 months ending with his brother's death.

The council claimed that Mr Thomas did not succeed to the secure tenancy of the Stockfield Road premises because he had not resided at those premises for 12 months before his brother died.

Section 87 did not stipulate that the successor must have resided at a particular house for 12 months but only that he should have resided with the deceased tenant for that period. The effect of section 87 was to ensure that a qualified member of the tenant's family who had made his home with the tenant should not lose his home when the tenant died but should succeed to that home and to the secure tenancy which protected both the tenant and the successor against the landlord's power to evict the tenant alive and which should continue to protect the successor after the death of the tenant.

In order to qualify, a successor must have resided with the tenant during the period of 12 months ending with the tenant's death. That restriction ensured that section 87 could not be exploited, that there would be no difficulty in identifying a genuine successor and that only bona fide claims to have been residing with the tenant should succeed.

That protection for the local authority did not require the residence to have taken place for the whole 12 months in the house to which succession was claimed. The section only required residence with the tenant for the period of 12 months and there was no justification for implying any other requirement.

When a tenant and a potential successor moved from one council house to another the tenant did not lose the protection of a secure tenancy and there was no good reason why the potential successor should lose the protection which he had obtained or was in the course of obtaining under section 87.

When a tenant who was not already a council tenant applied for a council house, the local authority, before granting a secure tenancy found out whether the council house would be occupied by the tenant alone or whether the joint home of the tenant and a member of the tenant's family who had been residing with the tenant. The local authority would know whether they let the council house to the tenant the house would also be occupied by a potential successor who had made his home with the tenant.

If the tenant's death was untimely, that is, within one year of the date of the letting, there was no reason why the potential successor should lose his home if he had in fact resided with the tenant for 12 months.

In the present case the council had been unable to suggest why Mr Thomas should lose his home as well as his brother by reason of the death of his brother. In the absence of express language the section should not be construed in a manner which could only produce an unwelcome and unjustifiable distress and hardship in the event of an untimely death.

In the present case the Court of Appeal, upholding the judge in the county court, was understandably constrained to order Mr Thomas to give up possession of the Stockfield Road premises to the council because of the earlier decision of that court in *South Northamptonshire District Council v Power* ([1987] 1 WLR 1433).

In that case the appellant had made her home with a tenant of a private sector house for three years

and continued to make her home with the tenant when he was granted a secure tenancy of a council house. The tenant died within nine months after the grant of the council house tenancy and it was held that section 87 did not protect the appellant.

Lord Justice Kerr had relied on *Collier v Stenhouse* ([1957] 1 WLR 1108) and *Edmond v Jones* (No 2) ([1957] 1 WLR 1115). But both those cases only decided that the successor had to live with the tenant in the whole of the premises. They did not approach the present problem which arose when the successor lived with the tenant in different premises during the qualifying period.

In the *Power* case Lord Justice Woolf (at p1441) had agreed with Lord Justice Kerr but left open the question whether there was any difference under section 87 if the successor had resided for 12 months with the deceased tenant in two or more council houses or had resided partly in a council house and partly in private sector accommodation.

There was no logical distinction. Section 87 required that the successor should occupy the council house as his home at the death of the tenant and should have resided with the tenant during the period of 12 months ending with the tenant's death.

It did not matter whether the successor and the tenant resided together in one or more houses or whether the residences were all council houses provided they all resided together in a council house at the moment of death and provided that the successor and the tenant resided together during the period of 12 months prior to the death of the tenant. Thus *South Northamptonshire District Council v Power* was wrongly decided.

Lord Griffiths, Lord Lowry, Lord Mustill and Lord Slynn agreed.

Solicitors: Watson Probert, Walthamstow; Miss Kathleen Rice, Walthamstow.

Touche Ross & Co and Others v Baker

Before Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths, Lord Lowry, Lord Mustill and Lord Slynn of Hadley
[Speeches June 18]

Assured under excess professional indemnity insurance policies at Lloyd's, whether the policy was primarily, first excess or third excess layer, were not obliged to exercise their option to extend the policy within the discovery extension clause against all the insurers where some of the insurers were willing to give full cover.

The House of Lords so held dismissing an appeal by a syndicate of underwriters, Syndicate 126 at Lloyd's, represented by the defendant, Mr Colin Baker, from the decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Mann and Sir David Croom-Johnson) (*The Times* March 7, 1991; [1991] 2 Lloyd's Rep 230), of an appeal by the syndicate from Mr Justice Leggatt's judgment of July 27, 1989.

On an action by the plaintiffs, Touche Ross & Co, Arthur Young & Co, Arthur Andersen, Price Waterhouse, Ernst & Whinney and Deloitte Haskins & Sells, the judge had declared, *inter alia*, that the underwriters represented by the defendant were bound to indemnify the plaintiffs in respect of any claims made against the plaintiffs during certain specified periods.

Mr Anthony Boswood, QC and Mr Guy Phillips for the defendant; Mr Jonathan Mance, QC and Mr Robert Bright for the plaintiffs.

LORD MUSTILL said that the appeal gave rise to no issue of general importance, but rather turned on the application of rules and practices, well established in the London market, to the words in the policies in question.

In brief, the dispute was this: For many years a professional indemnity insurance programme had been organised by J. H. Minet & Co Ltd and later by one of its affiliates. The policies were written in layers, under line slips which authorised the leading underwriter to bind companies to subscribe the programme in specified proportions up to specified limits. At the time in question some 120 companies and syndicates took part in the programme.

During the 1970s and early 1980s substantial lines were taken by Lloyd's Syndicate 126. The lines material in the present appeal were taken on the first and third excess layers of the cover.

When a new active underwriter took over in 1982 he became concerned about the extent of the syndicate's exposure and took steps to reduce it. In the past, it might

not have been difficult to find other insurers to take over the syndicate's line, but the market had begun to contract, and it was only after extensive negotiation that he was able to secure a reduction in the syndicate's line on the first excess layer, in exchange for accepting exposure from June 1, 1986 on the third excess layer.

Since all the insurance created by the programme was written on a "claims made" basis, which defined the insurers' liabilities by reference, not to the occurrence of negligent acts or omissions within the period of the cover, but to the making of claims against the assured during that period, the assured would be left in a vulnerable position if the insurers chose not to renew the cover on expiry, for the assured would then have no protection, while they were negotiating new cover with other insurers against the consequences of antecedent acts which were going to yield claims but had not yet done so.

In response to sentiments shared by the potential clients and by regulatory bodies in the United States that that exposure was too hazardous, policies of that type were enlarged by the inclusion of "discovery extension" clauses.

The essence of those clauses was to give the assured an option, exercisable before the expiry of the policy, to prolong the cover for a further fixed period in exchange for payment of an additional premium. In the case of the first and third excess layers now in dispute the extensions were for three years and two years respectively, and the rates of additional premium were 100 per cent and 90 per cent of the last annual instalment.

The protection afforded by that prolongation, potentially valuable though it was, was less extensive than basic cover, since (a) it related only to claims arising from acts already done before the expiry of the policy, and (b) the manner in which the limits of liability, and the reinstatement thereof upon the making of claims, were formulated would lead to the exhaustion of the extended cover more rapidly than when the basic cover was in force.

It was evident that while the insurance market was buoyant the discovery extension cover would be of only modest significance, since upon receiving notification that the full cover would not be renewed, the assured would usually be able to negotiate a fresh cover elsewhere.

It appeared, however, that as the 1980s progressed the market for that kind of insurance contracted rapidly, so that to find replacements for the full cover when the existing underwriters declined to renew became much more difficult, and the right to buy time by deploying the discovery extension

cover became of correspondingly greater importance.

It was in those difficult market conditions that the present dispute arose. By appropriate notices the insurers elected to terminate the cover under the primary and first excess layers from May 31, 1989, and the third excess layer from May 31, 1986.

The assured then set about, through the agency of Minet, the task of replacing the cover, in particular by seeking to persuade the existing insurers to reinstate it, albeit on re-negotiated terms. To some extent they were successful but not all of the insurers were willing to continue their participation. Accordingly, the assured invoked the discovery extension clause.

With one exception the non-renewing insurers accepted the invocation of the discovery extension clause without demur. That exception was Syndicate 126.

In a nutshell, that syndicate maintained, and continued to maintain, that the clause had to be exercised against all the insurers, or none.

There was, so the argument ran, no room for the creation of discovery extensions piecemeal, against only some of the insurers.

The assured disagreed, maintaining that it would be absurd to read the policy in a sense which required them to invoke the extension clause, which provided an incomplete form of stop-gap cover designed to meet the contingency of non-renewal, even against those insurers who were willing to continue to cover in full.

His Lordship began with the words of the contract and referred to the provisions of the policies including the discovery extension clause which provided, *inter alia*: "If the underwriters shall refuse to extend this policy in accordance with clause IV condition 3(b), the assured firm shall then have the right, upon payment of an additional premium . . . to an extension of the cover granted by this policy in respect of any claim or claims made against the assured firm during the period of 36 calendar

months after the date of termination but only in respect of acts committed before the date of termination, by members who were insured hereunder prior to the date of termination . . ."

In the first place there was the matter of non-extension under clause IV, condition 3(b). The defendant's argument was sound, a logic must also require that the notice non-extension was also to be given for all the subscribers or none. Since the policy was not renewed that would mean that if all but one of the subscribers wished to bring it to an end, but the other did not, all of the contracts would cease to be in force on the day of termination, and the contract could be brought into line.

That position was completely at odds with need for the individual syndicate or company to be constantly re-assessing its position in regard to its own strategies, capacity and exposures elsewhere. And indeed just such a re-assessment was being made by Syndicate 126 itself, when it presented a redistribution of its lines between the first and third layers.

It was not suggested that the policy envisaged an adjustment of an individual syndicate's position otherwise than by notice. But equally there was no contractual motive for a company or syndicate to fetter its decision on whether to come off the risk on expiry by making that a matter for a syndicate vote.

If that view was right, the defendant's argument was quite unsustainable, since it would be impossible to read the discovery extension clause as requiring the extension option to be exercised against all, if some subscribers had chosen to remain with the full cover.

Lord Templeman, Lord Jauncey, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Slynn agreed.

Solicitors: Simmons & Simmons, Lovell White Durrant.

When solicitor should appeal before getting legal aid

Jordan v Jordan

Where in civil proceedings involving the liberty of the subject, a solicitor considered that his legally aided client had grounds for appeal, he should not delay lodging a notice of appeal while awaiting further legal aid.

Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, so stated sitting with Lord Justice Leggatt in the Court of Appeal on June 12 allowing in part an appeal by the husband, Noel Jordan, from Judge Hutchinson in Grimsby

County Court who had committed him to prison for contempt of court for six months for breaches of a non-molestation order made on the application of the wife, Sylvia Hutchinson. The husband's solicitors, although in possession of counsel's advice in favour of an appeal and draft notice of appeal shortly after the appeal, had not lodged the notice of appeal until after the grant of legal aid.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that in ordinary civil litigation it was understandable that solicitors should hesitate before incurring expense which would be irrecoverable if legal aid was not granted for an appeal.

However, where the liberty of the subject was involved and legal aid had been granted at first instance it was not too much to expect that, if the solicitor himself thought that there were grounds for appeal, a brief notice of appeal should be lodged forthwith. In such circumstances it would quite wrong to delay for legal aid to be granted.

that solicitors should hesitate before incurring expense which would be irrecoverable if legal aid was not granted for an appeal.

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that solicitors should hesitate before incurring expense which would be irrecoverable if legal aid was not granted for an appeal.

Sentence cut

Regina v Gorman

Where a court was imposing a sentence of imprisonment as long as 12 months it would seldom be appropriate to add to it a short consecutive sentence.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Phillips and Mr Justice Tuckey) so stated on June 11 in allowing an appeal by David Gorman against total sentences of imprisonment of 12 months and 14 days imposed in April 1992 at Knutsford Crown

Court (Judge Morgan Hughes) for driving offences, assault and failing to surrender to bail.

MR JUSTICE PHILLIPS said that two seven-day consecutive sentences of imprisonment were imposed because the appellant failed on two occasions to surrender to bail. Such very short sentences should have been ordered to run concurrently and not consecutively to the total sentence of 12 months imprisonment for the other offences.

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HelpAge International is a network of organisations working for elderly people worldwide, of which Help Age (UK) is a member.

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Closing date for applications: 3rd July

BBC1

- 6.00 CeeFax (28826)
 6.30 BBC Breakfast News begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Nicholas Witchell and Laura May present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (2997803)
 9.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series about two long-lost cousins (r) (6178005) 9.30 Hot Chefs. Gary Rhodes from the Greenhouse in Mayfair prepares poached egg salad, tuna fish and apple fritters (s) (95613)
 10.00 News, regional news and weather (6926667) 10.05 Playdays. For the very young (s) (4076700) 10.25 Bananaman. Cartoon series. With the voices of Tim Brooke-Taylor, Bill Oddie, Graeme Garden and Jill Shilling (r) (6929754) 10.35 Beautywise. Ideas for looking good, presented by Liz Earle and Karen Krizanovich. Today, advice on hair (r) (4299754)
 11.00 News, regional news and weather (9740822) 11.05 Travel Show. What the Tuscany region of Italy has to offer the holidaymaker (r) (4697793) 11.15 Major Dad. Domestic comedy series set in a US Army camp (4596548)
 12.00 News, regional news and weather (7894716) 12.05 Cricket: Second Test. Live coverage of the final morning's play in the second Test between England and Pakistan at Lord's, continued from BBC2 (8324006) 12.55 Regional News and weather (60724280)
 1.00 One O'Clock News. (CeeFax) Weather (51342) 1.30 Neighbours. (CeeFax) (s) (59597803)



All set for Wimbledon matches: Desmond Lynam (1.50pm)

- 1.50 Wimbledon 92. Desmond Lynam introduces live coverage of the first day of the championships. Includes Michael Stich of Germany, the defending men's singles champion, beginning the defence of his title against the Italian S. Pescosolido on the Centre Court (s) (56210261)
 4.10 Gravedale. Spoof horror cartoon (2630445) 4.35 Patrick Parard. Episode nine of the 12-part children's drama. (CeeFax) (4219938)
 4.55 Newsround (8216342) 5.05 Blue Peter presented by Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane-Louise Jordan. (CeeFax) (s) (8445957)
 5.35 Neighbours (r). (CeeFax) (s) (185006). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (CeeFax) (629)
 6.30 Regional News Magazines (209). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 7.00 European Football Championships. Denmark and Romania play live coverage of the semi-final match between Holland and Denmark in Gøteborg's Ullevi Stadium. The commentator is John Motson (28167735)
 9.10 News with Marylin Lewis. (CeeFax). Regional news and weather (289938)
 9.40 Panorama. From Israel, Jane Corbin reports on how that country's voters will affect the prospects of peace in the Middle East (670919)
 10.20 Today at Wimbledon. Harry Carpenter introduces highlights from matches played on the first day of the championships. (CeeFax) (s) (744613)
 11.20 Cricket. Richie Benaud with the best of the action from the final day's play in the second Test between England and Pakistan at Lord's (s) (636445)
 11.50 Weather (474087). Northern Ireland (to 12.20am): Greenfingers

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BBC2

- 6.45 Open University. Joseph Wright of Derby (9046261). Ends at 7.10
 9.25 Cross Wits. Crossword quiz game hosted by Tom O'Connor (6167995) 9.55 Thames News (189-037)
 10.00 Out of This World. American comedy series about the adventures of the teenage offspring of an alien-human liaison (r) (1280)
 10.30 The Morning Show. Today's edition includes advice for new mothers, phone-in family matters and Anne Robinson at the Good Housekeeping Institute (45050532). With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55
 12.10 Rosie and Jim. Puppet series for the very young (r) (8610993)
 12.30 Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Ruseler. (Oracle) Weather (6282735) 1.10 Thames News (62718174)
 1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama serial (Oracle) (18880919) 1.50 A Country Practice. Medical drama serial set in a small Australian outback town (s) (68842174)
 2.20 Thames Help. Times to do in London for under a fiver or for nothing (3782006) 2.50 Families. Soap linking the north of England with Australia (s) (7382464)
 3.15 ITN News headlines (922483) 3.20 Thames News headlines (929396) 3.25 The Young Doctors. Drama serial set in a large Australian city hospital (3716629)
 3.55 Cartoon Time featuring Cool Cat (r) (4146532) 4.00 Round the Bend. Comedy mix of animation and cartoons (r) (463209) 4.25 Chip 'n' Dale - Rescue Rangers. Cartoon adventures (2653396)
 4.50 How 2. Fred Dineen presents the fun and facts show (r) (4130445)
 5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers, presented by Ron Hoare (590826)
 5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (356667)
 5.55 Thames Help (s) (671754)
 6.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle) (975)
 6.30 Thames News. (Oracle) (377)
 7.00 Just For Laughs. A compilation of clips from classic British comedy films (8209)
 7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (261)
 8.00 Wheel of Fortune. Game show hosted by Nicky Campbell and Carol Smiley (5629)



Discovering a heart of darkness: Harrison Ford (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Film: The Mosquito Coast (1986).
 CHOICE: Before he tackled the script of Paul Theroux's novel, the screenwriter Paul Schrader declared: "The hardest films to make are those with scenes on ships, or ones set in the tropics, or ones with a lot of kids." The Mosquito Coast offered all three obstacles but Schrader and the director Peter Jackson refused to be daunted. Harrison Ford, the star of Wildly Thriller Witness, plays the frustrated genius who becomes disillusioned with the modern world and leads his family (Helen Mirren and four kids) into the Central American jungle. Hoping to start a new civilisation, he finds himself sucked back into the old one and the idealists turn into a tyrant. It is uncomfortable fable, given ballast by skilful performances from Ford and Mirren and a remarkable one by the child actor River Phoenix, as the son-narrator. (CeeFax) (11209)
 10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman (622667)
 11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (s) (212984)
 11.55 Weather (391700)
 12.00 Open University: Harmonic Analysis (26946). Ends at 12.30am

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (155483)
 6.30 Cross Wits. Crossword quiz game hosted by Tom O'Connor (6167995) 9.55 Thames News (189-037)
 10.00 Out of This World. American comedy series about the adventures of the teenage offspring of an alien-human liaison (r) (1280)
 10.30 The Morning Show. Today's edition includes advice for new mothers, phone-in family matters and Anne Robinson at the Good Housekeeping Institute (45050532). With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55
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 7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (261)
 8.00 Wheel of Fortune. Game show hosted by Nicky Campbell and Carol Smiley (5629)



A terrible business: monkeys heading for the lab (8.30pm)

- 8.30 World in Action: The Monkey Business. A documentary report revealing the trade in monkeys who are supplied by Indonesia, the Philippines and Mauritius in their tens of thousands to laboratories around the world (7464)
 9.00 Film: Hooper (1978) starring Bob Reynolds, Ian-Michael Vincent and Sally Field. Amiable comedy about the veteran stuntman recognised as the best in the world, and the challenge he faces from a young upstart. Former stuntman Hal Needham directs. Continues after the news (Oracle) (6209)
 10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Judy Somerville. (Oracle) Weather (48261) 10.30 Thames News (292025)
 10.40 Film: Hooper (1978) starring Bob Reynolds, Ian-Michael Vincent and Sally Field. Amiable comedy about the veteran stuntman recognised as the best in the world, and the challenge he faces from a young upstart. Former stuntman Hal Needham directs. Continues after the news (Oracle) (6209)
 11.30 European Football Championships. Highlights of the second semi-final, between Holland and Denmark at the Ullevi Stadium, Gøteborg (s) (21377)
 12.30am Entertainment UK. Weekly leisure-time guide (s) (75946)
 1.30 Sport AM introduced by Bob Symonds (44385)
 2.30 Film: The Rough and the Smooth (1959, b/w) starring Nadia Tiller and Tony Britton. Sub-B movie melodrama about an archaeologist about to marry an heiress who falls for a mysterious nymphomaniac. Directed by Donald Wolf and Joyce Carey. Directed by Robert Siodmak (43656)
 3.30 Jazz: at the Maintenance Shop. Long John Baldry in concert (74014)
 5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Neilson (14101). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel Four Daily (1506025)
 9.25 Schools (1847253)
 12.00 Right to Reply. Presented by Shena McDonald. A new series in which people who have been criticised in the media can respond to the programmes that insult them (r) (45121)
 12.30 Business Daily News and analysis from the world's financial centres (95667)
 1.00 Sesame Street. Entertaining pre-school learning series. The guest is actor Robin Williams (r) (87822)
 2.00 Film: On the Lamps of China (1935, b/w) starring Pat O'Brien. Drama about an American oil man in China whose obsession with his work leads to estrangement from his family. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy (15337)
 3.50 Joe McDookes (b/w). The hapless hero is having trouble with his landlord (4653087)
 4.00 Weighing in. Profiles of two members of a Porters Bar weight watchers class - a 12-year-old girl and a mature woman - both with an obsession to be slim (r) (s) (990)
 4.30 Fifteen-to-One. Fast-moving knock-out quiz contest hosted by William G. Stewart (s) (174)
 5.00 Road to Avonlea. Episode five of the 13-part children's drama serial based on the novels of Lucy Maud Montgomery (9822)
 6.00 The Cosby Show. American domestic comedy (r). (Teletext) (667)
 6.30 The Henderson Kids. Australian family drama serial (s) (919)
 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) Weather (214919)
 7.50 Comment (827071)
 8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s) (3071)
 8.30 Evening Shade. Small town America comedy series starring Bart Reynolds as the local school's football coach (s) (5006)



Golden girls of the north: four widowed friends (8.00pm)

- 9.00 Female Parts: Norah, Rose, Wynne and Dorothy.
 CHOICE: Here is the story of four friends from Lancashire, facing up positively to widowhood and advancing age and determined to make the most of life. There is loneliness, of course, but there are the compensations of freedom and independence, the chance to dance, swim, go to keep-fit classes and take trips to Blackpool. Not for Norah, Rose, Wynne and Dorothy the smart lines and smarter clothes of their American sitcom counterparts. The Golden Girls. This is reality, not a construct, and Robyn Walker's film presents it with quiet affection. The film is much enhanced by its commentary, written and spoken by the television critic Nancy Banks-Smith. Her amused observation of northern life is often in the Alan Bennett class. (Teletext) (7551)
 10.00 Northern Exposure. Off-beat comedy about an American east coast doctor working in a small Alaskan town peopled, it seems, by eccentrics (s) (839735)
 10.55 The Dazzling Image. Spike Milligan introduces seven disparate animations - The Secret Joy of Falling Angels by Simon Pummell, Let's Do Damnation by Alan Short, The Waxing Blob by Paul Rodgers, Unknown Woman by Kaya Parker, Possession by Phil Mulloy, Pecking Order by Vic Smith and The Immediate Subject by Benita Raphael (s) (8428700)
 12.05am Talking Liberties. Julia Kristeva talks to Jonathan Ree about human rights, feminism and psychoanalysis (2076110). Ends at 12.50

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00am DJ Kat (19504193) 8.00 Mrs Pepperpot (1187242) 8.55 Lark Chop (5629118) 9.30 Pyramid (13483) 10.00 Let's Make a Deal (40716) 10.30 Bold and the Beautiful (31416) 11.00 Young and the Restless (7358) 12.00 St Elsewhere (2100) 1.00pm E Street (71174) 1.30a Granada (2037) 2.30 Another World (733000) 3.15 Brady Bunch (944739) 3.45 DJ Kat (4901332) 5.00 Facts of Life (4918) 5.30 Different Strokes (1984) 6.00 Love at First Sight (4025) 6.30 E Street (5777) 7.00 All Persophona 6.50 (7488) 7.30 Cardiff Camera (4261) 8.00 Footprints from Africa to America and dawning final part (68551) 10.00 Stutz (91377) 10.30 Anything For

SKY NEWS

Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. News on the hour. 6.00am Sunrise (213174) 9.30 Phone-in (93025) 10.00a News (6858) 10.30 Beyond 2000 (4594) 11.30 Japan (431551) 11.45 Business (129545) 12.30pm Good Morning America (49700) 1.30a CNN (20629) 2.30 Parliament (732648) 3.15 Parliament (2431754) 4.30 Beyond 2000 (1174) 5.30 Newsline (99759) 6.30a News (42193) 10.30 Newsline (95551) 11.30 ABC News (57023) 12.30am Newsline (19304) 1.30 ABC News (13439) 2.30a News (18472) 5.30 Newsline (83255)

SKY MOVIES+

Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 10.00 Star Wars (1977). Mark Hamill

EUROSPORT

Via the Astra satellite. 6.00 Mountain Bike (45209) 8.30a Newsline (43314) 9.30a Motorsport (95445) 10.30a Football European Championships (87273) 12.00a Football: First semi-final (42261) 1.30a Tennis (331445) 4.00a Football: First semi-final (69984) 5.30a Football: 6.30a News (7777) 7.00a Football: Second semi-final (25919) 8.00a Boxing (38379) 10.00a Football: Second semi-final (90342) 11.30a News (95280)

SCREENSPORT

Via the Astra satellite. 6.00 Mountain Bike (45209) 8.30a Newsline (43314) 9.30a Motorsport (95445) 10.30a Football European Championships (87273) 12.00a Football: First semi-final (42261) 1.30a Tennis (331445) 4.00a Football: First semi-final (69984) 5.30a Football: 6.30a News (7777) 7.00a Football: Second semi-final (25919) 8.00a Boxing (38379) 10.00a Football: Second semi-final (90342) 11.30a News (95280)

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 2.20-2.50 Graham Kerr (97832006) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (123556)

BORDER

As London except: 2.20-2.50 House Style (97832006) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (123556) 7.00-7.30a The Young Doctors (716629) 7.30-7.50a The Young Doctors (716629) 8.00-8.30a The Young Doctors (716629) 8.30-9.00a The Young Doctors (716629) 9.00-9.30a The Young Doctors (716629) 9.30-10.00a The Young Doctors (716629) 10.00-10.30a The Young Doctors (716629) 10.30-11.00a The Young Doctors (716629) 11.00-11.30a The Young Doctors (716629) 11.30-12.00a The Young Doctors (716629) 12.00-12.30a The Young Doctors (716629) 12.30-1.00a The Young Doctors (716629) 1.00-1.30a The Young Doctors (716629) 1.30-2.00a The Young Doctors (716629) 2.00-2.30a The Young Doctors (716629) 2.30-3.00a The Young Doctors (716629) 3.00-3.30a The Young Doctors (716629) 3.30-4.00a The Young Doctors (716629) 4.00-4.30a The Young Doctors (716629) 4.30-5.00a The Young Doctors (716629) 5.00-5.30a The Young Doctors (716629) 5.30-6.00a The Young Doctors (716629) 6.00-6.30a The Young Doctors (716629) 6.30-7.00a The Young Doctors 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BUSINESS TIMES

MONDAY JUNE 22 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT
24-30

IN THE NEWS

Building on the rubble of recession

John Major and Norman Lamont may be convinced that economic recovery is on its way, but Mark Bolat knows just how long the government may have to wait.

An 18-year career at the Building Societies Association has given the Jersey-born economist the most intimate knowledge of the British housing market. Having joined the BSA's public relations department in 1974, in time to see rising house prices serve as a near-perfect hedge against galloping inflation, by 1986 he had risen to the position of secretary general, in time to see rising house prices coincide with a period of low retail inflation, thereby providing the perfect excuse for a massive consumer spending binge.

But long gone are the days when Mr Bolat could look forward to unending savings and mortgage lending at record levels. As Wednesday's monthly BSA figures should again confirm, the combination of falling house prices and falling inflation seems to



Bolat: in the know provide the perfect excuse for little, other than prolonged economic slump.

There is no easy or obvious answer as Mr Bolat, 43, acknowledged in characteristically dry style recently. Asked what the Chancellor could do to help a housing market devastated by mortgage arrears and repossession, he growled: "Give us 20 per cent inflation." Not even Mr Bolat's well polished lobbying skills are likely to persuade Mr Lamont along that path.

Although tabloid newspapers occasionally attempt to calculate how much the value of his stockbroker-belt house has fallen in recent years, the slump has not been all bad news for an ambitious man. The repossession problem has brought him into regular contact with ministers, while the increasingly blurred divisions in the mortgage finance market has provided the opportunity to resuscitate a long-held plan to merge the BSA with the British Bankers' Association and the Council for Mortgage Lenders, the latter of which he already heads. As recessions go, Mark Bolat is having a good one.

MATTHEW BOND

Maxwell auditor 'outraged' at criticism by watchdog

By ANGELA MACKAY

COOPERS & Lybrand, the auditor, said yesterday it was "outraged" by criticism of the firm contained in a leaked confidential report prepared by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) on the pension fund watchdog's own role in the Maxwell affair.

While Imro concludes that its work fell short of what is expected of an official body charged with supervising the pension fund industry, the report also blamed Coopers & Lybrand for "on no occasion" using a statutory provided right of reporting directly to Imro.

A spokesman for Coopers, auditor to most of the private and public companies in the Maxwell empire, said the firm had never seen the 68-page report that was detailed in *The Sunday Times*. "We are astonished that such a report would be concluded and released without anyone from Imro consulting us. We are always ready to help the regulators," the spokesman said.

Imro accused "leading professional advisers, accountants and others, by their support or silence [of giving] credence to situations which were left to develop in an unsatisfactory and ultimately dangerous way".

The Institute of Chartered Accountants, the accounting profession's watchdog, has also become interested in the affair. Coopers has told the ICA that it is satisfied with its judgment after the firm conducted an internal review of all work done for Maxwell companies.

Coopers, which has already given evidence on its conduct regarding Maxwell companies to a House of Commons select committee, will once again come under close scrutiny from trade and industry inspectors appointed this month to investigate the flotation of the late Robert Maxwell's 49 per cent stake in Mirror Group Newspapers.

The report also suggested Coopers was reluctant and slow to produce a report on the Maxwell pension funds requested by Imro soon after Robert Maxwell died last November. "It is outrageous to say we delayed giving the report. They requested the report on November 27 or 28, and it was faxed to them on December 4," the spokesman said. The report showed about £427 million of pension fund cash had been transferred to Robert Maxwell Group, a private company.

Imro's criticism centres on Coopers' audit of Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM) and London & Bishopsgate International Investment Management (LBI), two Maxwell investment management companies. BIM managed the Maxwell group pension funds while LBI was the conduit for the stock lending programmes that were key to the disappearance of the missing cash.

Coopers said it only had a statutory obligation to report on LBI not BIM. The auditor apparently found financial control irregularities at LBI in 1990, and produced a new set of procedures to eliminate the problem.

Names sign Lloyd's 'no confidence' petition

By PHILIP PANGALOS AND JON ASHWORTH

DISSIDENT names at Lloyd's of London will soon present a petition, signed by more than 100 names, calling for a vote of no confidence in David Coleridge, the chairman of the insurance market, and the ruling council of Lloyd's.

Claud Gurney, a name, and Richard Astor, a barrister who acts for a number of names and whose parents are names, intend to present the petition to the council "imminently".

Mr Astor said: "We have the requisite number of signatures from names to call for an extraordinary general meeting." The petition, which has been signed by working and non-working names, says: "We therefore have no confidence that the present members of the council are acting or will act in the best interests of names and the Lloyd's insurance market and wish to see those members replaced as quickly as possible."

There are other demands included in the dissidents' petition, with rebel members hoping to muster enough support to vote down the 5 per cent levy on them approved by the council to raise £500 million for Lloyd's central fund. The names will also ask the council to devise a way to buy themselves out of the market, while fuller and franker co-operation between the council and names' action groups is also being called for.

The behind-the-scenes power struggle has prompted some speculation among members' agents as to a possible successor for Mr Coleridge, with those mentioned including Neil Shaw, the chairman of Tate & Lyle and a senior member of the Association of Lloyd's Members, Sir David Scholey, chairman of SG Warburg, and BTR's Sir Owen Green.

A spokesman for Lloyd's said: "There is no question of the council standing down." One long-serving name, who requested anonymity, expects Lloyd's to rally round in order to get enough working members to attend and therefore ensure support for the report and accounts and for Mr Coleridge.

Rebel members of Lloyd's, meanwhile, will be out in force on Wednesday for what is likely to be the stormiest annual meeting in the insurance market's 300-year history. The rebels are hoping to muster enough support from outside names, those who are not professionals, to outnumber the market's 4,000 professional working members, such as underwriters and insurance brokers, to reject Lloyd's annual report and accounts.

Many of the 5,000 hard-hat names may attend in person to hear Mr Coleridge unveil details of the 1989 underwriting year. He is expected to confirm that losses for the year have topped £2 billion on the back of disasters such as Piper Alpha, Hurricane Hugo and the San Francisco earthquake.

Roads near Lime Street were jammed last year when about 3,000 names arrived to learn of record losses of £310 million for the 1988 underwriting year.

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Coleridge: under attack



Company line: Gay Ayton, public relations officer at Price Waterhouse, starts a 330ft descent of Southwark Towers, the firm's office, yesterday in a 24-hour sponsored abseil organised by Alec Schwartz, 72, right. Gay, 31, joined more than 1,000 volunteers trying to raise £100,000. The event was the end of a three-year campaign to raise £1 million for a kidney unit at Guy's Hospital

Turbulent market threatens issues

By MARTIN WALLER

THE London stock market is heading into a nervous week, with two big rights issues approaching their close amid fears that the abandonment of the GPA Group float on Thursday could precipitate a liquidity shortage that would scupper further fundraising.

Thursday also sees the launch by Wellcome Trust of its offer of shares in the Wellcome pharmaceutical company and an indication of the size of the offer.

Blue Circle Industries and BICC are raising £242 million and £154 million respectively. BCI will use some of the cash to pay £125 million for a French maker of domestic boilers, but the move by BICC, although supposed to fund acquisitions in Europe and America, was widely seen as an opportunistic bid to cut the company's borrowings.

Further turbulence on the stock markets could put the success of either issue at risk, although analysts believe that at Friday's closing market levels both will succeed. BICC was trading at about 40p above the issue price of 285p, but BCI's leeway was only 16p as the shares fell against the market trend on Friday.

Howard Seymour, building materials analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, believed the 7 per cent prospective yield on BCI on a fully covered dividend would guarantee the issue's success.

Concern is also growing over about 20 smaller rights issues overhanging the market, which could fall victim to further share price falls, as well as market doubts by such as Kenwood Appliances, Country Casuals, Tauntons Cider and Anglian Windows.

Most were planned when the market was scaling new peaks. However, the FT-SE 100 Share index, for example, has fallen more than 120 points since the start of June.

The pulling of the GPA flotation, after assurances that demand from institutions was strong, has brokers fearing the start of an investment strike.

John Reynolds, equity analyst at County NatWest, calculates that UK institutions can expect to see total cash flow this year of £40 billion. The gilt market could soak up as much as £25 billion of this. Further instalments on privatisation programmes would soak up another £6 billion. New issues would cost a further £2 billion.

Couny says about £3 billion of rights issues have been announced so far. Another £5 billion-plus are expected.

If institutions choose to spend spare cash on shares at the market's currently depressed level, there is a danger that some of this year's cash calls will flop, leaving underwriters to pick up the tab.

Japan's competitive lead slips

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

JAPAN leads the world's most competitive economies, but its supremacy is gradually slipping because its economy has reached maturity, according to a competitiveness league table published annually by the World Economic Forum and IMD, the Swiss management school.

The biggest loser of the past year was America, which has dropped from second to fifth place, behind Germany, Switzerland and Denmark. Britain is thirteenth, ahead of France, but behind Ireland.

The table is the main result of the World Competitiveness Report (WCR). The findings are not only based on hard data but also entail what the authors call "the softer side of competitiveness", including "motivation, education, attitudes and values".

World Economic Forum, IMD, The World Competitiveness Report 1992, is available from Ms Hoa Vu-Thi, IMD (WCR), P.O. Box 915, Chemin de Bellevue 23, CH-1001 Lausanne, Switzerland.

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Fixed mortgage: John Charcol, both interest-free, and 25, with an outstanding mortgage of £250,000 as a property valued at £250,000, repaid over 25 years, assuming completion on 12.05.92. Gross repayment of £20,200 in each of the first seven months with interest at 9.99% (11.5% APR) followed by gross repayments of £20,000 with the loan repaid by 12.05.95. Gross repayment of £20,000 in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.95 and 12.05.97, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.97 and 12.05.99, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.99 and 12.05.01, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.01 and 12.05.03, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.03 and 12.05.05, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.05 and 12.05.07, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.07 and 12.05.09, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.09 and 12.05.11, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.11 and 12.05.13, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.13 and 12.05.15, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.15 and 12.05.17, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.17 and 12.05.19, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.19 and 12.05.21, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.21 and 12.05.23, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.23 and 12.05.25, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.25 and 12.05.27, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.27 and 12.05.29, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.29 and 12.05.31, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.05.31 and 12.06.02, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.02 and 12.06.04, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.04 and 12.06.06, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.06 and 12.06.08, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.08 and 12.06.10, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.10 and 12.06.12, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.12 and 12.06.14, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.14 and 12.06.16, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.16 and 12.06.18, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.18 and 12.06.20, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.20 and 12.06.22, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.22 and 12.06.24, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.24 and 12.06.26, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.26 and 12.06.28, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.28 and 12.06.30, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.06.30 and 12.07.02, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.02 and 12.07.04, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.04 and 12.07.06, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.06 and 12.07.08, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.08 and 12.07.10, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.10 and 12.07.12, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.12 and 12.07.14, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.14 and 12.07.16, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.16 and 12.07.18, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.18 and 12.07.20, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.20 and 12.07.22, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.22 and 12.07.24, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.24 and 12.07.26, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.26 and 12.07.28, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.28 and 12.07.30, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.07.30 and 12.08.01, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.08.01 and 12.08.03, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.08.03 and 12.08.05, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.08.05 and 12.08.07, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.08.07 and 12.08.09, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.08.09 and 12.08.11, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.08.11 and 12.08.13, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.08.13 and 12.08.15, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.08.15 and 12.08.17, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.5% APR) in each of the next 31 months. 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Thereafter, 242 monthly payments of £20,000 between 12.08.29 and 12.08.31, and, currently, a variable rate of 9.99% (11.

Gangsters strike fear in minds of company chiefs

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

Junior staff at Japan's banks are rehearsing for the most hazardous job of the year — the dreaded annual shareholders' meeting, an event deemed highly unsuitable for the faint-hearted.

More than 1,300 Japanese companies are due to hold their shareholders' meetings on Friday when they hope to dilute the efforts of Japan's professional extortionists. Known as sokaiya, these gangsters turn up at the shareholders' meetings with files of awkward information and lists of tricky questions on the company or its employees.

It is possible to seal the sokaiya's lips at a price, in which case they act as bouncers for the company during the meetings, heckling rival sokaiya. But if suitably large sums are not paid — police estimate ¥1 million (£423,700) per company — the sokaiya sabotage meetings, yelling as many expletives as the Japanese language will allow.

The big four securities houses, Nomura Securities, Daiwa Securities, Nikko Securities and Yamaichi Securities, will also be targeted by Mr Viner, one of the prices they are paying for their part in the stock compensation scandals of last summer, when it emerged that they had illegally compensated important clients for ¥65 billion in stock and bond market losses between 1987 and 1990.

Mr Viner's methods of putting pressure on company presidents are likely to be rather more decorous than those of one sokaiya member who belongs to an offshoot of Sumiyoshi Kai, a gang of 8,200 snarling hoodlums with names like Ken "The King" and "Fingers". He has a full-time staff of 40 who spend most of the year as gangster "detectives", loitering with cameras and binoculars outside the head offices of well-known companies and checking for tax discrepancies and other misdemeanours.

On Friday one of the gangs will deploy people at 40 shareholders' meetings, each with enough shares to permit entry and an empty wallet to take delivery of payments if the company capitulates. Last year, more than 30 securities firms were suspected of paying ¥15 million in hush money to one sokaiya.

One of the gangsters said: "People may call us outlaws, but we are only trying to help our fellow shareholders... the audience gave us a standing ovation at one meeting."

PENNY SHARES

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'Foreign funds will throw down the gauntlet to Japanese management'

Skanska will rejoin race to provide DoE offices

BY ANGELA MACKAY

SKANSKA, Sweden's biggest property investment and construction company, is lobbying to have its Thomas More Square development put back in the running as the new home for 2,000 civil servants from the department of environment.

The Swedish group's move may be too late, however, since the government is scheduled to receive proposals from the three remaining bidders: Canary Wharf's administrators, NCC and Charter Group — by tomorrow.

Thomas More Square, near Tower Bridge, had at one stage been the civil servants' preferred location if they had no alternative but a move to London's Docklands.

However, Skanska did not originally submit a competitive bid for the tenancy. Filled by the knowledge that NCC, its biggest Swedish rival, is one of three potential landlords left in the bidding, Skanska is now prepared to offer a much lower rental than originally quoted.

The Swedish partnership of NCC and Tygg Hans SPP has developed East India Dock, a 600,000 sq ft scheme, while Charter Group, a United Kingdom company, is proposing its 1.25 million sq ft development at Harbour Exchange.

Canary Wharf, which went into administration last month, needs to win the government contract to help restore confidence in the scheme, particularly since American Express last week said it would not move to Canary Wharf unless the administrators paid £22 million outstanding under an agreement signed with Olympia & York, the project's owner.

Canary Wharf's proposal, it has been estimated, will fall between Charter and the NCC with the British group likely to make the cheapest offer of about £10 a sq ft compared with about £13 from Canary Wharf and £14 from NCC.

Skanska originally suggested close to £20. However, both the Swedish developments consider they deserve a premium because they do not depend on an extension to the Jubilee Tube line for ultimate success.

Indeed, Thomas More Square is serviced by the District and Circle line as well as the Hammersmith and City line.

Kvaerner to create 400 jobs

BY RODNEY HOBSON

UP TO 400 new jobs are being created in the UK oil and gas industry by Kvaerner, the Norwegian shipbuilder.

Professional engineering staff are being told to walk in off the street at Kvaerner's new offices in Ryder Court, St James's Street, central London, tonight or tomorrow.

There is, however, no deadline for applications and experts living further afield can apply to the Aberdeen office.

The expansion is at Humphreys & Glasgow and at Earl & Wright, two offshore engineering businesses bought by Kvaerner for £15.5 million in February. Already, 100 people have been recruited and the next batch will take staffing to 1,000, double the number employed in London and Aberdeen at the time of the takeover. Nearly 300 jobs will be permanent and the rest will be on contracts.

Professional staff are needed in design and offshore engineering, piping, instrument, electrical, structural and telecommunications, and process engineers are needed, as well as design supervisors and metallurgists. Specialised work includes naval architecture and document control.

Kvaerner hopes that by linking the UK companies to the fabrication yards in Norway it will win contracts for a "package" of engineering, procurement, installation and construction. It already has work in hand for clients including British Gas, Phillips, Shell, BP, Total and Chevron.

Kvaerner is the largest Norwegian employer in the UK and is listed on the London Stock Exchange. In 1988, it bought the Cowan shipyard in Glasgow, where it has an order book lasting until 1995. Other subsidiaries operate at Greenock, Doncaster, Gateshead and Slough.

preferred location if they had no alternative but a move to London's Docklands.

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Indeed, Thomas More Square is serviced by the District and Circle line as well as the Hammersmith and City line.



No-brand goods: Harry Weblin, right, and John Pugh, at the new Muji store

Liberty split over Myerson plan

BY JON ASHWORTH

SIGNS of a boardroom split have emerged at Liberty, the fashion retailer and wholesaler, as it prepares for a showdown with Brian Myerson, the South African entrepreneur, later this week.

Mr Myerson, whose Concerto Capital trading company holds a little more than 15 per cent of Liberty shares, will put his proposals for change to shareholders at a special meeting in London on Friday.

Some Liberty directors have privately told institutional investors that plans to change the company's share structure may make sense. However, they would want to implement the changes at their own pace.

Liberty, led by Harry Weblin, chairman, and John Pugh, finance director, has rejected Mr Myerson's proposals. They said his plans would not increase marketability of shares. Mr Myerson

is likely to encounter opposition from descendants of Sir Arthur Liberty, the founder. The proposals would dilute their holding from about 52 per cent to about 42 per cent.

Last week, Liberty opened its second Muji store, a joint venture with Ryohin Keikaku, the Japanese retailer, in Covent Garden, London. Muji is a designer-free concept, already successful in Japan.

EC acts slowly on coal-dumping claim

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission is making slow progress over a complaint by British Coal that America, China and Colombia have been dumping coal on the EC market. Sources in



Andriessen: evidence

Brussels say the commission is anxious not to provoke Washington while it and the Community have a chance of negotiating an end to the Gatt Uruguay Round of world trade talks.

This will be scant solace to British Coal, which alleges the cheap imports helped close 14 pits in 1991, with the loss of 13,000 jobs and 5 million tons in production. The commission has never launched an anti-dumping enquiry into coal because Germany subsidises its coal industry heavily, leaving the commission in an awkward position in any trade argument.

While German electricity producers continue to pay its collieries three times the global market price for coal, and Bonn subsidises the country's 133,000 miners to the tune of

£25,000 per head a year, the commission faces embarrassment in any negotiations. Hence, Frans Andriessen, the external relations commissioner, has asked the American coal producers named in British Coal's complaint to give evidence before the end of next month, and the commission has stalled on making a formal enquiry.

This will anger British Coal, which is anxious that import prices of coal should be kept down while it works out new supply contracts with British electricity producers, due to come into effect next March.

The success of these contracts will influence the government's timing over privatising the industry. ICI and BP are among 17 EC petrochemicals firms that have appealed to the EC's Court of Justice in Luxembourg to have their fines for running a low density polyethylene cartel annulled. The court's decision is expected by the end of the year.

W Canning rerated despite downturn

W Canning, the specialty chemicals and electronics distribution group, has enjoyed a rerating despite a downturn in profits in the last financial year.

The shares, trading at 116p less than a year ago, rose sharply last month to test a 12-month high of 177p. Some profit-taking was inevitable and the shares eased back to 173p last Friday. But Michel Teager, the smaller company analyst at Albert E. Sharp, believes Canning still offers good value on a medium-term view, despite the rerating.

He is forecasting £7 million profits before tax in the current year without any improvement in volume, recovering from £5.72 million in 1991 when exceptional restructuring costs and higher interest charges eroded the bottom line. Forecast earnings of 14.7p a share put Canning on an undemanding prospective p/e of less than 12.

Operating profits last year rose 5.3 per cent to £8.7 million, with almost four-fifths of this coming from the specialty chemicals division, which has proved remarkably resilient in the recession. The division boasts an impressive international spread, product and customer diversity, and increased cross-selling and technology transfer between constituents. Effective rationalisation measures were implemented to reduce costs in line with demand.

By contrast, electronic components distribution has disappointed, incurring heavy losses in Spain and delivering a lacklustre performance in Germany, despite the strength of the economy there. Trading prospects in Europe remain uncertain but loss elimination in Spain and rationalisation in Germany should ensure some recovery in the second half.

There are no immediate plans to divest this business but followers of the company believe offers would be seriously considered and, despite recent underperformance, the division boasts a pan-European presence that should attract considerable interest.

Gearing of 61 per cent is not considered to be a problem, with all borrowings held overseas at lower interest rates, offset by cash balances in Britain. The company generates cash, and with no further reorganisation costs anticipated and no further earn outs left to be paid, gearing is expected to fall.

MARTIN BARROW



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Record gilts auction to go ahead

INVESTORS in the gilt market must overcome several difficult hurdles this week with the government pursuing its fund raising programme despite publication of further indicators showing the economy still in recession.

The May trade figures published today are expected to show the monthly trade deficit still at £1 billion. But the Bank of England intends to proceed with the biggest ever auction of government securities as

part of its funding programme. In the Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said he was committed to raising the public sector borrowing requirement to £28 billion, most of which would be funded on the gilt market.

This year, so far, the government has raised £12.2 billion as part of that programme.

This time it is issuing a further £2 3/4 billion of Treasury 9 per cent 2012 'A'. The existing stock closed on Friday

at 99 1/2, a fall on the week of about 1/2. Stephen Scott, a stockbroker at Kleinwort Benson, is confident the issue will succeed. He estimates that fund managers will subscribe for nearly £4 billion of stock thereby guaranteeing its success. He agrees there remains some nervousness in the City because of the size of the issue.

MICHAEL CLARK

Gilt-edged, page 22

BRITISH FUNDS									
Stock	Outstanding	Stock	Price	Int	Gr	Stock	Outstanding	Stock	Price
(£m)	(£m)			%	rd	(£m)	(£m)		%
SHORTS (under 5 years)									
1,390	Each 12/6 1992	100%	12.30	9.78		1,703	Trust 14% 1998-01	127%	11.20
1,757	Each 12/6 1992	100%	12.38	9.66		3,277	Trust 9% 2002	107%	9.20
400	Each 12/6 1994	112%	11.78	9.58		1,057	Trust 9% 2007	107%	9.20
900	Trust 8% 1993	100%	8.31	9.18		1,703	Trust 10% 2003	105%	9.45
1,800	Trust 10% 1993	100%	9.06	9.41		443	Fund 2% 1999-04	100%	5.28
1,100	Trust 12% 1993	100%	12.13	9.45		1,012	Clare 9% 2004	102%	9.28
1,065	Trust 12% 1993	100%	12.02	9.40		1,820	Trust 11% 2001-04	112%	10.24
2,100	Trust 8% 1994	98%	8.60	9.17		4,442	Conv 9% 2006	102%	9.25
1,400	Trust 9% 1994	99%	9.04	9.15		2,300	Trust 12% 2004-05	101%	10.38
1,900	Each 12/6 1994	101%	11.79	9.32					
1,240	Each 12/6 1994	106%	12.64	9.30					
1,100	Each 12/6 1994	100%	12.64	9.30					
900	Trust 14% 1994	103%	13.46	9.39					
214	Gov 7% 1990-95	93%	3.20	5.48					
2,600	Each 12/6 1995	102%	9.98	9.22					
2,350	Trust 12% 1995	102%	11.20	9.26					
940	Trust 12% 1995	110%	11.38	9.22					
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)									
750	Trust 9% 1992-95	99%	9.02	9.06		1,800	Trust 8% 2002-05	91%	8.70
1,200	Conv 10% 1996	102%	9.72	9.16		1,407	Trust 9% 2007	107%	9.20
400	Each 12/6 1996	112%	11.78	9.58		3,150	Trust 11% 2003-07	116%	10.11
770	Trust 14% 1996	113%	12.31	9.44		3,871	Trust 9% 2008	99%	9.04
1,130	Trust 15% 1996	118%	12.86	9.40		1,200	Trust 12% 2004-06	129%	10.45
2,600	Trust 8% 1997	100%	8.28	9.10		1,200	Trust 8% 2009	90%	8.80
3,300	Each 12/6 1997	104%	10.01	9.18		1,400	Trust 9% 2011	99%	9.00
1,200	Trust 13% 1997	114%	11.40	9.36		1,200	Trust 9% 2008-12	98%	8.80
800	Each 12/6 1997	122%	12.24	9.28		700	Trust 9% 2012-15	97%	8.81
1,400	Trust 9% 1998-99	99%	7.23	8.50		1,000	Each 12/6 2013-17	127%	9.41
3,200	Each 12/6 1998	102%	9.52	9.17					
3,400	Each 12/6 1998	112%	12.02	9.30					
928	Trust 15% 1998	100%	12.10	9.44					
1,700	Trust 9% 1999	102%	9.28	9.02					
1,600	Conv 10% 1999	105%	9.72	9.20					
2,350	Trust 10% 1999	103%	9.85	9.20					
3,050	Each 12/6 1999	114%	10.70	9.42					
3,150	Conv 9% 2000	99%	9.03	9.06					
3,171	Trust 12% 2000	109%	10.84	9.41					
4,106	Trust 10% 2001	104%	9.24	9.18					
LONGS (over 15 years)									
1,800	Trust 8% 2002-05	91%	8.70	9.13		276	Consols 2 1/2%	26%	9.28
1,407	Trust 9% 2007	107%	9.20	9.16		475	Trust 2 1/2%	31%	9.49
3,150	Trust 11% 2003-07	116%	10.11	9.31		127	Conv 3 1/2%	40%	9.49
3,871	Trust 9% 2008	99%	9.04	9.05		339	Consols 4%	36%	9.17
1,200	Trust 12% 2004-06	129%	10.45	9.39					
1,200	Trust 8% 2009	90%	8.80	9.04					
1,400	Trust 9% 2011	99%	9.00	9.04					
1,200	Trust 9% 2008-12	98%	8.80	8.94					
700	Trust 9% 2012-15	97%	8.81	9.01					
1,000	Each 12/6 2013-17	127%	9.41	9.07					
UNDATED									
500	Trust 11 1/2% 1994	127%	2.51	3.93					
1,100	Trust 11 1/2% 1994	184%	3.34	4.00					
1,150	Trust 11 1/2% 2004	148%	3.49	4.06					
600	Trust 11 1/2% 2007	146%	3.49	4.06					
1,200	Trust 11 1/2% 2009	146%	3.49	4.06					
1,100	Trust 11 1/2% 2011	133%	3.49	4.06					
1,200	Trust 11 1/2% 2013	113%	3.49	4.06					
1,800	Trust 11 1/2% 2016	118%	3.49	4.06					
1,200	Trust 11 1/2% 2020	99%	3.49	4.06					

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

NEW INTEREST RATES

COMMENT

Lawsuits versus reform at Lloyd's

Hyperbole has become the currency in disputes between Lloyd's of London and those of its external underwriting members who face cruelly high losses. One campaigner's claim that the insurance market faces "death by a thousand cuts" does, however, have a chilling ring about it for all who care about the future of an institution that is, in its unique way, as important to Europe's premier financial centre as the London Stock Exchange.

David Coleridge, the market's urbane chairman, will approach Wednesday's annual meeting knowing that many names who wish to support the market will be driven as determinedly to law, to abate their losses, as the more destructive militants.

Disappointment about the failure of Lloyd's working party to come up with some general aid for the minority, on whom most of the estimated £3 billion losses for the worst underwriting years fall, is not confined to distressed names. Many within the Lloyd's establishment and its ruling council were equally frustrated — hence the face-saving formula of kinder treatment at the hardship committee, financed by some unspecified contribution to be negotiated from the insurance market professionals.

The council must insist on names paying their dues, for the confidence of customers depends on unlimited liability. That confidence has been dented in overseas markets by attempts, so far thankfully unsuccessful, to resist the implications of that principle. There are, however, different ways to apply the rules. To ask names who have avoided losses to reimburse others, who knowingly made a high-risk investment, would be absurd. To apply rigidly the formula of "pay now, sue later" is foolhardy.

Lloyd's says that aid schemes are unfair or unacceptable to the majority who have made profits or only moderate losses during the underwriting trough. This is not evident from the hundreds of letters received from names by *The Times*. Many of that majority want to soften the immediate impact of losses on their fellow names. Several suggestions involve either favourable loans to individual names or an increase in lending of funds between syndicates. Temporary loans backed by market professionals might be used where there is some *prima facie* case for claims of incompetence, negligence or malpractice. In such cases, part of the loss might ultimately be borne by managers or their errors and omissions insurers, as happened after a damaging legal battle over the Outhwaite case.

Reluctance by market professionals appears to have scotched schemes that might have limited litigation to a containable fringe. Many names have the highest praise for their own members' and underwriting agents, most of whom are themselves names. Yet many of Lloyd's most fervent supporters are unhappy about the way the market has developed in recent years. Incorporation and stock market listing of agents has consolidated their separation from the outside "punters" and increased conflicts of interest. Volatility of underwriting results, recruitment of excess capacity and churning of underwriting commitments can all favour professionals at the expense of names, because of payment structures. There is no such agreement among Lloyd's fans about the reforms needed, but the real debate is about whether the market should seek to re-establish identity of interests or move faster in the direction of arms-length investor protection for names. The reforms suggested by the Rowland report point in both directions, though its logic favours viewing names as investors and is likely to be reinforced by the separation of regulation and operation of the market. Development of a coherent new structure of relationships is central to the future of Lloyd's. Cool debate will not flourish while the council in its steel tower is besieged by lawyers.

Colin Narbrough charts the course of a revolution that has quietly been taking place on the other side of the world

A faraway country of which we know less than we ought, apply describes New Zealand. Despite our common heritage and substantial economic and social ties, Britain's integration into Western Europe and, more recently, the disintegration of the former Soviet empire, have inevitably eroded awareness of New Zealand in Britain.

As Philip Burdon, the New Zealand commerce minister, observed recently, New Zealanders and Britons consider each other unexciting. The danger, he rightly suggested, was that complacency can blind both nations to new developments. While Britain was successful in persuading the world that Margaret Thatcher had wrought an economic miracle in the 1980s, New Zealand was engaged, almost unnoticed, in one of the most comprehensive economic reform processes ever attempted by a developed country.

Given the mixed success so far of its bold reforms, this sparsely populated antipodean country, best known in Britain for its butter, lamb, kiwi fruit and rugby players, is worthy of study for possible lessons valid for other economies.

Some recognition of New Zealand's efforts is given in this year's *World Competitiveness Report*, published today by the Swiss-based IMD and World Economic Forum. It puts New Zealand in pole position, up from eighth last year, in the "government policy most conducive to competitiveness" category. Across the Pacific, Japan still leads the world in current competitiveness, but doubts are voiced in the survey about its future position. On current performance, New Zealand is in 15th place, behind France and Britain. The report ranks countries in eight categories according to their showing on nearly 300 performance measures.

In the category headed by New Zealand, the criteria include hard indicators, such as government debt and tax rates, and softer, more judgmental information on the impact of legislation and social stability. New Zealand scores high for monetary and fiscal policies, legislative and regulatory environment, and for the absence of price controls on goods and services.

The radical restructuring process in New Zealand, begun under a Labour government in 1984, has, since 1990, been pursued with undiminished vigour by the right-wing government of prime minister Jim Bolger. His core cabinet has been nicknamed the "razor gang" for its

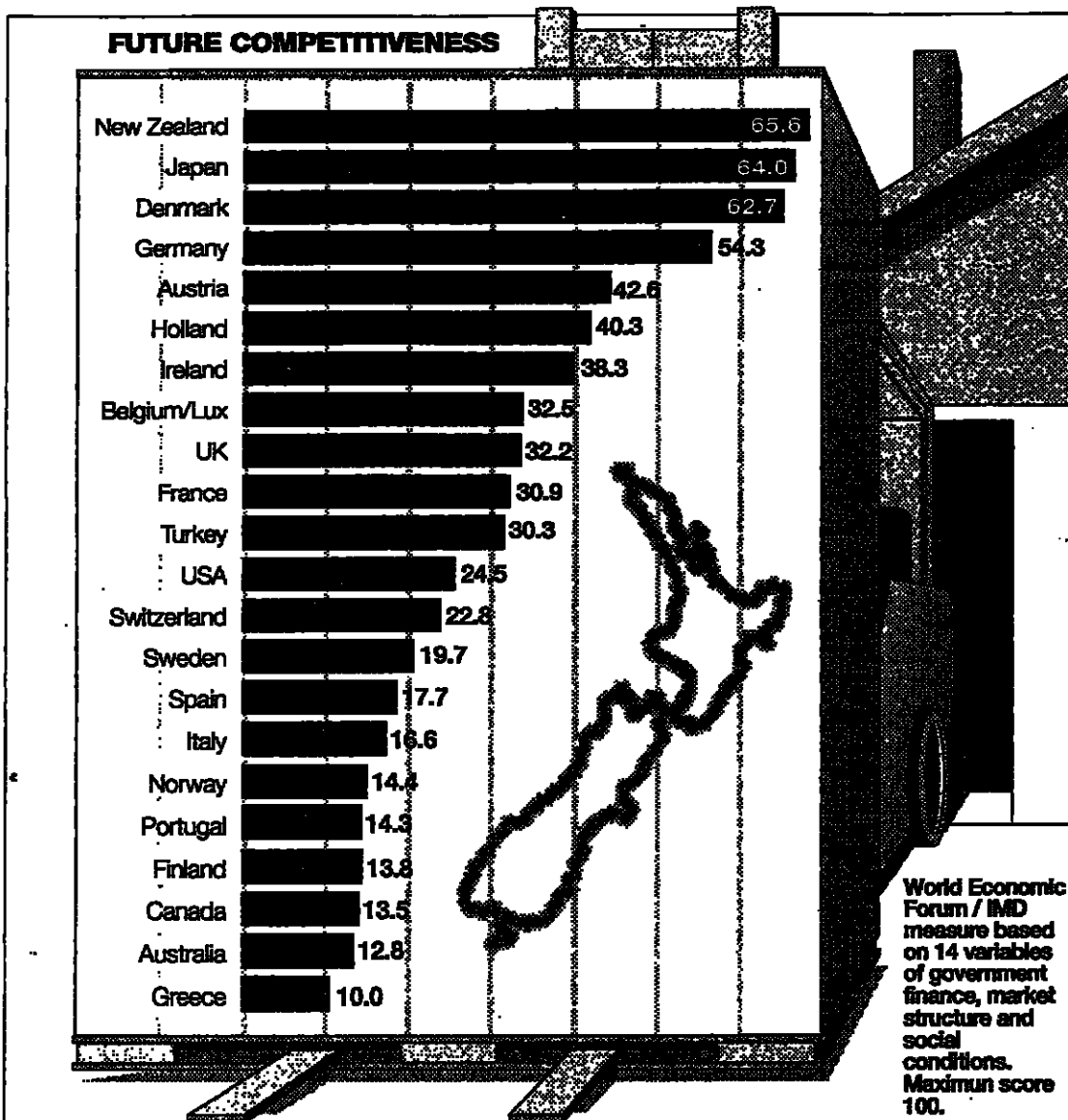
tough cuts in public spending. The country has been transformed from a heavily protected, over-regulated, high-inflation economy to one of the most open in the world.

After average inflation above 13 per cent in the late 1970s and most of the 1980s, the annual rate dropped to 1 per cent in 1991, the lowest for any member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The Reserve Bank, which has the statutory duty to achieve price stability, has brought inflation into a zero to 2 per cent target range. The New Zealand dollar depreciated about 7 per cent last year but appears to have now achieved a high degree of stability against the currencies of the country's main trading partners. Fiscal policy is aimed at reducing both government spending and revenue as a share of gross domestic product, and at dismantling the national debt in the medium term.

Crucially, for a country where prosperity depends on the ability to export, the reform process has enabled it to improve its export performance against the downward trend in world prices. Last year, it produced a trade surplus of NZ\$2 billion (£588

ECONOMIC VIEW

New Zealand strides down the hard road to economic health



by 1993. Despite her retreat, the government appears to have spending well under control. The wider deficit merely reflects the impact of recession on revenue. The deficit, at NZ\$1.26 billion in the ten months to April 30, was fortunately below projections.

If the drought continues, however, more than the government's finances could suffer. Some economists fear economic growth could be dampened for years. The inward investment the government hopes for would have to be absorbed by the power industry to the detriment of other sectors.

New Zealand may be sporting the hairiest shirt, but it is not alone in its pursuit of an open, internationally competitive economy.

At the Geneva secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, it is held as something of a textbook model. But the Latin American economies, which, like New Zealand, depend heavily on agricultural exports, have been dismantling trade barriers too. This reflects the recognition, after relative economic decline for most of the past half-century, that a liberal, multilateral trading system offers the best path to increased wealth.

The export-led dynamism of Japan and the Asian economies of the Pacific basin brought New Zealand to the realisation that it had no future if it persisted with protectionism. The Closer Economic Relations Pact of 1983 with Australia was a first step towards coming out of its shell. Subsequent liberalisation has been aimed at creating the domestic climate most conducive to export growth and high quality inward investment. With only 3 million people, New Zealand cannot expect much home-grown demand.

Significantly, the Uruguay Round negotiations of the Gatt have been in progress, albeit fitfully, for most of the time New Zealand has been engaged in reform. The round has held out the promise of better market access and liberalised trade in farm goods, the fastest road to adding value to New Zealand exports. If a successful Gatt round led to an increase of only 10 per cent in the value of New Zealand's primary exports, it would generate an extra NZ\$1 billion.

Added to concern that the transatlantic deadlock over farm subsidies could still cause the Uruguay Round to founder is the arrival on the American political stage of Ross Perot.

Unlikely as it may seem that he can become president, his strongly protectionist views have already unsettled the financial markets. Mexican share prices dropped after his condemnation of the North American Free Trade Pact. Even without Mr Perot in the White House, protectionist sentiment in America might gain in strength. After the pain of reform, New Zealand must fear that it will have to fall back, at least on regional arrangements or, failing that, to withdrawal into its shell. It will not be alone.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Lloyd's has missed an opportunity

From Mr H. H. Marcus

Sir, The Council of Lloyd's has missed a unique opportunity to defuse an increasingly desperate situation by failing to propose a rescue deal for the embattled names. Had the council shown some statesmanlike appreciation of the realities facing the time-honoured institution, the flood of litigation might have been stemmed. Now the names know they are on their own!

Only the courts will now bring relief from the consequences of incompetence and malpractice. About one third of the shrunken membership are in serious financial distress. Where is new capital to come from to enable the

market to operate with? The central fund is to be propped up to £1,000 millions but at the rate of these losses, this will evaporate quickly.

Will new names be found to join this whirlpool of troubles? Had confidence been restored, commercial funds on a basis of limited liability might well have been attracted but now, with the certainty of protracted litigation and continuous adverse publicity, will not policy holders begin to wonder how their legitimate claims will be paid? Wednesday's annual meeting will indeed be an explosive occasion.

Yours faithfully,
H. H. MARCUS,
4 Regency Terrace, SW7.

Funds cover current losses at least five times

From Mr G. N. M. Mellersh

Sir, Worried by all too frequent news of Lloyd's names becoming bankrupt, Mr Stapleton quite reasonably asks (Letters, June 10) how he can be sure that, in the event of a claim on one of his policies at Lloyd's, the syndicates concerned will be able to pay. While not the authoritative third party from whom he would like to hear, perhaps an external name I can help to restore his faith in the market's ability to pay up when required.

Lloyd's global results for the year ended December 31 1991 are unlikely to be available before the annual meeting on June 24. But in the meantime it should give him confidence to know that, at the end of 1990, the confirmed resources of members totalled £7.4 billion, and the balances on the open years £9.8 billion, giving a total of £17.2 billion available to meet policy holders' claims. Further comfort

can be taken from the existence of the central fund at Lloyd's which is there to meet claims in the event of a name's bankruptcy. The council of Lloyd's has recently announced that this fund is to be doubled in size from the present £500 million precisely to reassure policy holders.

Chastet estimates losses for 1989, 1990 and 1991 to total £3.75 billion, and these are the worst years the market has experienced. Mr Stapleton should therefore be able to sleep at nights in the knowledge that Lloyd's has available at least five times the money necessary to meet the current losses.

Yours faithfully,
G. N. M. MELLERSH,
47 Quarrendon Street,
SW6.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Big fish on the loose

THIS has not been a good year so far for Chris Swinson, who was the roly-poly managing partner of Binder Hamlyn, the accountancy firm, until he was ousted late last week in a coup over strategy more redolent of the bloodiest days on Wall Street. In the spring, he lost in the first contested election for the vice-presidency of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. As a result of the coup, Swinson has spent the weekend pondering his own future instead of outlining his vision for Binder Hamlyn at the annual meeting of the firm's 209 partners at Heythrop Park in Oxfordshire. The coup does not seem to have come as such a surprise to him as to the outside world. "It is just an event in the life of accountancy folk," he says with a sigh. It did, however, come as a shock to Joanna Higgs, his loyal executive assistant, who was about to go on maternity leave. Swinson is a familiar expert witness and became one of the profession's most effective spokesmen in rows over auditors' and company collapses. He is unlikely to be idle for long. Friends have long seen him as a big fish in the relatively small pond at Binder Hamlyn, which has lost touch with accountancy's big six firms.

Pair bonding

THE last major hurdle before a high-level merger in the euro-bond market was cleared at the weekend when Dominic



A THOUGHTFUL gesture by Nigen, the newly formed generation that has taken over two of Ulster's four power stations, bequeaths a certain lack of confidence. After hosting a "thank you" dinner at Belfast Castle the other night for about 30 advisers, after completion of the stations' transfer into private ownership, Nigen's American and Belgian principals handed each guest a little gift on leaving. A hand torch.

Arms race

The ultimate in executive toys is, it seems, "warbirds": the restored second world war and Korean war fighters, which a few dozen very well-shod playboy pilots, including Swire group's Adrian Swire, race and display at air shows throughout Europe and America. But with the availability of such sought-after aircraft as P-51 Mustangs, P-38 Lightnings, Spitfire 9s, 14s and 16s now extremely limited — and with prices for them, in flying condition, running at about £750,000 — the Russian aircraft industry has spotted an opportunity. At the International Aerospace Show in Berlin last week, officials of Russia's Yakovlev aircraft design bureau, faced with the harsh necessity of earning their living in the commercial world now that the Kremlin's huge arms budget has dried up, revealed that they are seeking orders for replicas of the Yak-3. The 1940 frontline piston-engine fighter is going back into production and a batch of 20 will be built to exact second world war specifications, to meet what they

described as frantic demand from the warbird market. No price has yet been set, but the Yak-3 is expected to undercut western originals drastically, perhaps selling for as little as £150,000.

Dextrous Dexter

WITH funds of \$66 billion you would think that Kemper Financial Services, America's eighth largest mutual fund, could afford to have more than one executive in London. According to Kemper, however, only one is needed if he happens to be Stephen Dexter, 34, who has just arrived in his Finsbury Circus offices as Kemper's whizzkid in charge of European equity investments. Dexter has twice won the *Institutional Investor's* accolade as one of the "best of the buy-side" equity analysts in America. Now he is one of four key individuals running the Kemper International Fund, charged with spearheading global expansion. In the past two years, the fund has moved into the top performance quartile of American funds invested internationally, with Dexter making investment decisions largely out of Kemper's base in Chicago. With a direct presence in Europe, he now hopes the fund will perform even better. He will be joined in August by Edith Thoun, a top European analyst from Bank Leu in Geneva. Dexter says his success is based on being very idea-oriented and speaking to companies directly. "We're interested in brokers' ideas but we do our own work," he says.

CAROL LEONARD

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REPORTING THIS WEEK

TSB to reap rewards of fall in bad debt provisions



Out-of-season blues: Lord Delfont, of First Leisure, is expected to see lower interims

A SHARP fall in bad debt provisions will help TSB Group, the banking and financial services group chaired by Sir Nicholas Goodison, report a sharp recovery in first-half profits.

Interim pre-tax profits, due on Thursday, are expected to advance to £95 million, against a provision-driven loss of £150 million last time, according to Kleinwort Benson. Market forecasts range from £80 million to £101 million. A maintained interim dividend of 3.15p is predicted.

TSB was the only clearing bank to flag the prospect of materially reduced bad debt provisions at the time of its annual meeting. But analysts will want to know whether TSB has stemmed the hefty losses at the Hill Samuel merchant bank, while close attention will also be paid to underlying growth at the retail banking operations.

TODAY

Interims: Heavtree Brewery, Finis: Allen, Amber Industrial, Campbell & Armstrong, Fletcher King, Hardy Oil & Gas, Harris (Philip) Holdings, Ivory & Sims, TGI Westport Group. Economic statistics: Balance of payments current account and

overseas trade figures (May), food facts (first quarter).

TOMORROW

Wessex Water is expected to turn in final pre-tax profits of £76 million (£66 million), according to Hoare Govett. Market forecasts range from £74 million to £78 million. A dividend of 19.8p (17.7p) is expected.

Airtours, the package tour and airline operator, will probably report a seasonal first-half pre-tax loss of between £6.5 million and £7.5 million, against a loss of £6.2 million last time. Full-year profits are forecast to advance to £38 million (£27.5 million).

Interims: Airtours, Kleinwort Charter Investment Trust, Shoprite Group. Financials: Birkdale Group, Helma, I&S Optimum Income Trust, Starling Industries, Wessex Water, Whitecroft.

WEDNESDAY

First-half profits at First Leisure, the discotheque to ten-pin bowling group, will be restricted by difficult trading over the out-of-season winter period and the costs of refurbishing some of the group's nightclubs. Paribas Capital

Markets Group expects First Leisure, which is headed by Lord Delfont, chairman, and John Conlan, chief executive, to turn in interim pre-tax profits of £10.9 million, against £12.1 million last time. Market forecasts range from £10 million to £11.3 million. A maintained dividend of 1.75p is predicted.

Strong growth in domestic and commercial markets is expected to help London Electricity drive final pre-tax profits ahead to £145 million (£103.3 million), according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from £140 million to £150 million. A dividend of 16.8p (14.9p) is predicted.

Kleinwort Benson expects AAH Holdings, the health-care and distribution group, to lift full-year pre-tax profits to £32 million (£28.7 million). A dividend of 16.3p (14.85p) is expected.

Interims: First Leisure, Hoakys Group, JLI Group, Kymnans Corporation, Southern Business (C), Walker Greenbank. Financials: AAH Holdings, Bristol Water Holdings, Brown Shipley, BTP Courts (Furnishers), ERF (Holdings), Feedback, Hogg Robinson, London Electricity, M. Holdings, Wagon Industrial Holdings. Economic statistics: Building societies monthly figures (May), gross

domestic product (first quarter), construction — new orders (April — provisional).

THURSDAY

Poor plasterboard prices across Europe and the cyclical building downturn in Britain will take its toll of full-year profits at BPB Industries, Europe's largest producer of plasterboard. Michael Rubic, at Credit Lyonnais Laing, forecasts a slump in final pre-tax profits to £40 million, against £90.8 million, although a maintained dividend of 11.25p is predicted. Market forecasts range from £35 million to £50 million.

Nigel Hawkins, at Hoare Govett, expects Southern Electricity to generate final pre-tax profits of £162 million, against £106 million last time. Market forecasts range from £160 million to £170 million. A dividend of 16.3p (14.4p) is predicted. Final pre-tax profits at South Wales Electricity are forecast to advance to between £70 million and £74 million from £58 million. A dividend of 19.1p (16.9p) is expected.

Rothmans International, the tobacco and luxury goods group, is expected to report final pre-tax profits of £560

million (£542.5 million), according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Forecasts range from £550 million to £570 million.

Full-year profits at Yorkshire Water should rise to between £122 million and £127 million, against £114 million last time. A dividend of 19.4p (17.7p) is predicted. Interims: Cribben Radio, Greenwich Resources, Harbo & Harsons, Soundtrac, TSB Group. Financials: BPB Industries, Berkeley Group, Camella, Korea Asia Fund, Nepean, Rothmans International, Scantronic, South Wales Electricity, Southern Electric, Wachen and East Denbighshire Water, Yorkshire Water.

Economic statistics: Capital expenditure and stockholding (last quarter — revised), energy trends (April).

FRIDAY

Southern Water is forecast to turn in final pre-tax profits of £114 million (£97 million), according to Hoare Govett. Profit estimates range from £111 million to £117 million. A net dividend of 19.5p (17.7p) is expected. Interims: East Brothers, Brunner Investment Trust. Financials: Southern Water, Syllone, Visteo.

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Falling inflation points way to narrower yield gap

Since the Danish rejection of the Maastricht treaty, bond market investors have focused more closely on the economic fundamentals in each European country. Economic and monetary union is no longer taken for granted and speculation about ERM realignments has increased. It will take more than last week's Irish "yes" vote to alter this sea change in investor sentiment.

How should we value gilts now? Ultimately, the yield difference with Germany will reflect the perceived risk of a devaluation of sterling against the mark. The ERM's history suggests investors most often perceive this risk in terms of relative inflation rates. If Britain is able to reduce its rate to German levels for a sustained period, investors will become increasingly confident that sterling can hold its own against the ERM currencies. As this confidence builds, gilt yields should fall further towards German levels.

The course of gilt yields is thus likely to be affected by the future of British inflation. Some commentators are pessimistic about the "stickiness" of inflation because the underlying rate, excluding mortgage interest payments, was still 5.3 per cent in the year to May despite seven quarters of recession.

However, these 12-month comparisons are slow to reflect any improvement in inflation. Last year, the government of the Bank of England suggested markets should pay more attention to underlying inflation measured over shorter time horizons than the usual 12 months. The problem is the lack of official seasonally adjusted data. We have therefore produced our own measure of core retail price inflation — the RPI excluding mortgage rates, poll tax, VAT and petrol prices, seasonally adjusted. On this measure it becomes clear that core inflation is falling sharply (see graph). The seasonally adjusted monthly rate of increase in core retail prices rose steadily

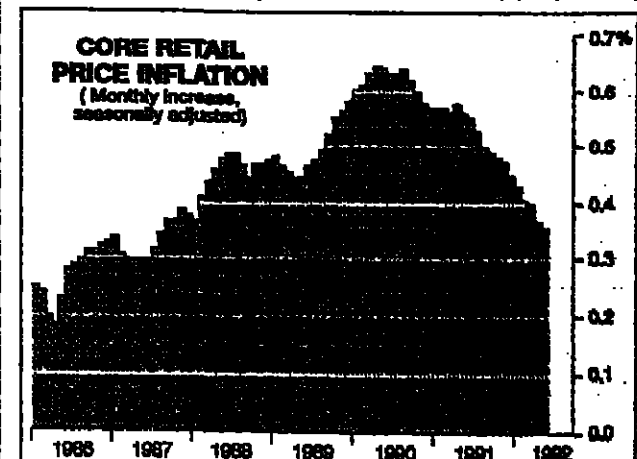
from a low of about 0.2 per cent a month in early 1986 to a peak of just over 0.6 per cent a month in mid-1990. Since then there has been a sustained drop in the monthly rate to 0.35 per cent (4.3 per cent annualised) in May, against a monthly rate of 0.47 per cent (5.8 per cent annualised) six months ago and 0.55 per cent (6.8 per cent annualised) a year ago. There is thus little reason to suggest underlying inflation is sticky.

More importantly, inflation is likely to continue falling for some time after the recovery begins. The recession has created a lot of slack in the economy, most visibly in the large rise in unemployment but also in the form of idle machines and plant. Even if the recovery is surprisingly strong over the next few years, output will remain below trend. Until this slack is taken up, inflation should remain under downward pressure.

Evidence of this disinflation is found in the labour market. The CBI pay databank survey shows private sector pay settlements are below 4½ per cent for the first time since the sixties. This improved trend is likely to be extended in the pay round this autumn, given the likelihood that unemployment will still be rising. With productivity improving, unit wage cost increases will fall to below 2 per cent across the economy by year-end. These favourable labour market developments will ensure Britain's core inflation over the next two years is among the lowest in Europe.

The spread between yields on gilts and Bunds should then narrow further to 80-100 basis points from 140 now. With German yields set to drop further once the Bundesbank eases monetary policy, ten-year gilt yields should fall to about 8-8.5 per cent over the next 12 to 18 months.

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Lewis could bypass Holyfield on way to world title



Tale of the tape: Holyfield faces the press after his win

LENNOX Lewis's eliminator bout with Donovan Ruddock of Canada, in London in October could be for the world title — the World Boxing Council (WBC) version — if a move to strip Evander Holyfield of the title succeeds.

After Holyfield's win over Larry Holmes on Friday night, Dan Duva, the champion's manager, said Holyfield would be making his next defence against Riddick Bowe if he won his bout against Pierre Coetzee, of South Africa, here on July 18. As soon as Duva tells the WBC officially about his decision, the world body will examine the implications of Holyfield's "defiance".

From the kind of noises Don King, Ruddock's promoter, is making, it seems the WBC will consider taking away Holyfield's title for not meeting the winner of the Lewis-Ruddock eliminator. "The eliminator should not happen. It should be a title bout," King told a press

conference. "We could get it on quickly in September." King has considerable influence with the WBC.

Lewis will be seeing King in Cleveland next week when he goes there to watch Ruddock against Phil Jackson. Lewis, who was working ringside at the Holyfield-Holmes bout for American television said: "I heard speculation that a stripping may happen. I would definitely like to box for the WBC title."

Lewis will be taking his advisers to Cleveland. "Even if I was on my own I would be able to handle it," Lewis said. "I know what he [King] is after [signing up Lewis]. I have an open view. His history speaks for itself."

Lewis was not impressed with Holyfield's performance against Holmes. "If he is the most conditioned athlete in the world, I don't believe it. At some points Holmes looked in better shape. Sometimes Holyfield was wondrous. At times he looked confused. Watching the fight

Lennox Lewis's chances of contesting the world heavyweight boxing title have improved following Friday's title bout in Las Vegas. Srikumar Sen reports

at ringside gave me a lot of confidence. He's definitely going to have trouble with the young heavyweights. If I had a chance to fight Holyfield instead of Ruddock, I would take Holyfield."

Lewis, whose next bout is in August, will return from Cleveland to Palmer Park to work in the gym of Sugar Ray Leonard. "I'm going back to school," Lewis said.

Holmes, though clearly beaten on all judges' cards (9-3, 8-4, 8-4, but 7-4-1 on mine), left Holyfield and his over-cautious management team in no doubt that the heavyweight championship is not the happiest place for a blown-up cruiserweight. Holyfield hit Holmes with everything he had but the

blows simply bounced off. It was the older man who looked the stronger in the last two rounds.

When it was over the two shook hands over the truism "there's no business like boxing business" and Holmes, \$10 million the richer, went home to Easton, Pennsylvania, to change the sign on his office door to "Gone fishing". Holyfield, with \$11 million in his pocket, went back to Atlanta to nurse a badly gashed right eye which could bedevil his career. The punters, disappointed at Holmes's tactics and that Holyfield could not put him away, cried that they had not got their money's worth.

Holyfield was shown not only to be too small for this

division but too mechanical as well, a smaller American Frank Bruno. He kept doing the same things over and over again and, like Bruno, showed little lateral movement and lots of muscle. Only his workrate kept him in front.

Holmes worked for only a minute of each round but was a joy to watch. Had he been ten years younger he would have disposed of Holyfield without too much trouble.

Having decided to spend the night on the ropes to save his legs, Holmes lured Holyfield into his parlour in the second round. As Holyfield tried to extricate himself, Holmes was able to hook to the body and cut loose with hurtful uppercuts. The whole of the round was fought in the corner. Had Holyfield persisted in sitting on top of Holmes, he would have lost every round.

Holyfield said: "With Foreman [whom he beat last year] I was able to keep George right in front of me. I could

square off and hit him with good clean shots. But I could not do that with Larry. He just would not let me get in good clean shots."

The difference between the boxing of the two men was rather like watching a cabinet-maker at work and a man assembling a DIY furniture from B&Q. Holmes's in-fighting was so slick that it made you realise what a wonderful era he had come from. It is difficult to see any of the young heavyweights today being able to place punches with such precision close in at the age of 42.

Peppe Correa, Lewis's trainer, said: "Holmes's boxing was of the higher class. It was a masterful performance. Young heavyweights know nothing about the technique of parrying, blocking, showing you something he has and taking it away from you, how to place the right punch in the right place at the right time. This is an art that has gone. We have to learn it again."

David Sole signs off with a try for Scotland in heavy defeat by Australia

Scotland's forward weaknesses exposed

Australia 37
Scotland 13

FROM ALAN LORIMER
IN BRISBANE

THE gap between Scotland and the world champions was palpably exposed yesterday at the Ballymore Stadium here as Australia ran in five tries to achieve their second highest win over the Scots.

Scotland were decisively beaten up front and starved of primary possession. "You simply cannot play at this level without securing ball," Richie Dixon, the Scotland coach, said. Both in the lineouts and at the set scrums, the Scotland forwards struggled to compete on anything like equal terms and for most of the match the backs were forced to defend. That Scotland managed to score two tries in the second half was a credit to their refusal to buckle completely in the face of overwhelming forces against them.

The Scots' second try was scored by David Sole, captaining Scotland for the last time. But by that stage, the damage had already been inflicted by the move the ball both adventurously and skilfully. Repeatedly, they were able to put players into undefended spaces with slight-of-hand passing, the best of which resulted in a try for John Eales, the Queensland lock, who took a return pass from his captain, Nick Farr-Jones.

Tin Horan again showed why he is regarded as one of the leading centres in the world by scoring two tries. Paul Carozza, whose place was in question because of an injury sustained in the first international against Scotland, proved his fitness be-

yond doubt with two tries, the first a rather "soft" score aided by a weak tackle from Tony Stanger.

Stanger's confidence was perhaps at a low point, the Hawick player having been dropped from the Scotland side only to find himself reinstated when Gavin Hastings was declared unfit to play.

Hastings' absence clearly affected Scotland, but the truth was that the Watsonian full back could have done little to change the imbalance between the sets of forwards. Where his presence might have told was in the midfield defence, which was uncharacteristically slack during much of the first half.

Scotland also gave away a string of penalties in the first period at the lineout or at the rucks, allowing Michael Lynagh to kick four goals in the opening quarter. Although he faltered thereafter and ended the game with only six successes from 13 attempts, he established the platform they needed to open up their game in spectacular fashion.

Scotland, however, fought back in the second half to score a try by Sean Lineen from a series of penalty moves. Craig Chalmers converted and with Sole scoring his try there was at least some consolation in a heavy defeat.

SCOTLAND: Australia: Tries: Carozza (2), Horan (2), Eales. Conversion: Lynagh. Penalties: Lynagh (3). Scotland: Tries: Lineen, Sole. Conversion: Chalmers. Penalty: Chalmers. AUSTRALIA: M. Riebeck, D. Campese, R. Horne, T. Horan, P. Carozza, M. Lynagh, N. Farr-Jones (captain), T. Daly, P. Kearns, E. McKenzie, W. O'Brien, R. McCall, J. Eales, D. Wilson, T. Gavin. SCOTLAND: K. Logan (Scotting County), T. Stanger (Hawick), S. Hastings (Watsonian), S. Lineen (Boroughmuir), I. Tulloch (Selkirk), C. Chalmers (Melrose), A. Nicol (Dundee High School F.P.), D. Sole (Edinburgh Academicals, captain), M. Scott (Dunfermline), P. Wright (Boroughmuir), C. Hogg (Melrose), D. Groom (London Scottish), G. Weir (Melrose), I. Smith (Glasgow), B. Watt (Edinburgh Academicals). Referee: C. Hawke (New Zealand).



Farewell hug: Sole, left, the Scottish captain playing his last international, caught by Kearns, of Australia

England B struggle to assert authority

Wairarapa-Bush 6
England B 40

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN MASTERTON

DESPITE recording the fourth victory of their New Zealand tour here on Saturday, sustaining an average of 43 points per match, England B are not playing well enough to be sure of beating the strong line-up that awaits them in black jerseys at the end of this week.

Like a new car that requires running in, England hiccupped to a win by five goals, one try and two penalty goals to two penalties against a team displaying, according to its coach, its best form of the season.

England's selection for Wednesday's game against Wanganui suggests that two of the five full internationals available, Harriman and

Mullins, will not play against the New Zealand XV in Hamilton on Saturday. Nor will Hynes, the Orrell prop who was a member of the grand slam squad last season.

Hynes is one of several players suffering from a chest infection, which caused him to leave the field on Saturday. At much the same time, Hopley limped off with a badly bruised side. The power of the tackling of Childs, his replacement, showed the way to

others less inclined to commit themselves.

Not one of the four centres here would be disgraced against the New Zealand XV, but slow delivery from the forwards and a somewhat naive tactical approach have limited their chances, as well as those of the wings. Underwood ended the weekend in a neck brace after a pinched nerve aggravated an old injury. The brace was required merely to stabilise the condi-

tion, which is a relief. Underwood's two tries here brought his total to five.

England's set-piece play worked well, with Bayfield outstanding yet again and David Baldwin growing in confidence, but in the loose against first-rate tackling, there was no development. That was partly because Castell took a heavy bang on his knee early in the match.

England are winning because of their size and pace on the wings. Control of the ball remains elusive.

SCOTLAND: Wairarapa-Bush: Penalty goals: Peppercorn, M. Barry. England B: Tries: Underwood (2), Bayfield, Barnes, Katooni, Harriman. Conversion: Barnes (2). Scotland: Penalty goals: Barnes (2). Wairarapa-Bush: C. Peppercorn, M. Foster, D. Boyle, M. Barry (captain), J. Sharkey, G. Gray, E. Latt, C. Barry, W. O'Brien, S. Styles, D. Bassett, V. Vooce, J. Hutchins, B. Brown, D. Gifford. ENGLAND B: J. Steele (Northampton), A. Harriman (Warrington), G. Thompson (Huddersfield), D. Hopley (Worcester), C. Childs, W. Underwood (Leicester), S. Barnes (Leeds), A. Katooni (Leeds), M. Hynes (Orrell), M. G. Barnes (Leeds), G. Dwyer (Bath), A. Mullins (Leeds), M. Russell (Warrington), D. Baldwin (Sale), M. Bayfield (Northampton), J. Castell (Saracens), B. Christie (Bath). Referee: G. Lempriere (Manawatu).

RACING

Safe option keeps Dr Devious on course for double

BY MICHAEL SEELY

DR DEVIOUS is in isolation at Manton but remains on target for his attempt to emulate Generous, who last season landed the double of the Epsom and Irish Derbys.

Both Dr Devious and his lead horse have been isolated for the past 10 days, said trainer Peter Chapple-Hyam yesterday. "I've got about 20 horses with dirty noses, but they are not coughing and don't have temperatures. Rodrigo De Triano developed the symptoms a couple of days ago but I am not advancing it as a reason for his Ascot defeat."

The impressive Derby winner delighted his connections in a workout on Saturday. "Dr Devious went very well. He looks great and I'm sure he's come on since Epsom. I don't think Silver Wisp has much chance of beating him."

However, Geoff Lewis, the trainer of Silver Wisp, is keen to renew Epsom rivalry. Bill Robins, the owner of the Derby third, will decide today whether to pay the £75,000 supplementary fee for Sunday's classic at the Curragh.

On Saturday Silver Wisp galloped at Newbury racecourse with Richard Hannan's Derby disappointment Assessor. Silver Wisp went clear in the closing stages and afterwards Hannan announced that Assessor would not run. "He's just not firing and needs a month's rest."

Commenting on Robins's difficult decision, Lewis said: "It's a ridiculous amount of money to have to pay but I'm afraid I'm pressurising him to run. The Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud is a good race but you don't get many chances of winning a Derby. I'm sure we've got a good chance as the track will suit him so well."

Confirming that User Friendly would not be supplemented and will be kept for

the Irish Oaks, Clive Brittain said: "Bill Gredley doesn't want to take on the colts until the autumn in the Arc. It's not really a case of not wanting to pay the money, although if it had been £10,000 we might have had a look."

Brittain continued in form at Ascot on Saturday when Michael Roberts rode For Mox to a comfortable win in the Haagen Dazs Handicap. This was the middle leg of a 40-1 treble for Roberts, although the jockey was awarded the opening Ritz Club Fern Hill Handicap after Nashville Blues had been disqualified and Michael Hills awarded a four-day suspension for careless riding.

Ladbrokes have made Roberts an 11-8 on chance to take the jockey's title from Pat Eddery, but backers should be aware that the company are betting on races decided in the calendar year rather than during the turf season.

Geoffrey Wragg's remarkable week concluded when the previously untraced Sumoto gained a runaway win in the Halifax Stakes, in the process becoming 20-1 favourite for next spring's 1,000 Guineas.

The sponsors have formed a market on the Coral Eclipse Stakes at Sandown on Saturday week. Lahib is 6-1 favourite, then 13-2 Kooyonga and Opera House 7-1 Zoman and Ezzoud, 8-1 Young Buster, 10-1 Terimon, Twist And Turn and Muhtarman.

Kooyonga, Opera House, Young Buster and Terimon have all been confirmed as likely runners, but John Dunlop, the trainer of Lahib, warned: "I wouldn't advise punters to back him yet as he's not a certain runner. He had had a problem as a three-year-old and likes a straight course. I'm not keen on a turning course like Sandown yet."

The Fellow beaten on heavy ground

FROM RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

THE Fellow's challenge for the Cheltenham Gold Cup next year got off to the worst possible start yesterday when he trailed in last of the eight runners in the Grand Steeplechase de Paris at Auteuil.

Francois Doumen's chaser never looked happy on the heavy ground as he finished more than 30 lengths behind El Triunfo, who may be aimed for the Stayers' Hurdle at Prestbury Park next March.

El Triunfo, trained at Pau by Francois Rohaut, who worked for two years in Newmarket with Harry Wragg and Mark Prescott, finished half a length and four lengths

clear of the Doumen-trained Ucello II and Ubu III.

Doumen was furious with officials at Auteuil for watering the course all week before 30mm of rain fell on Friday and Saturday. "The Fellow is not the same at all in this ground," he said.

"It is such a disappointment that they have been watering for the whole week despite the forecast being for rain at the weekend. I have been complaining every year for five years and I have not been talking to the clerk of the course for the last three. Every time The Fellow runs in heavy ground he does not run well."

The three Doumen-trained horses will now have a two-month break before The Fellow is prepared for the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day and the Cheltenham Gold Cup, in which he has finished second in the past two years.

Arzi, fifth at Royal Ascot last Tuesday, may return in the Prix Jacques le Marois at Deauville in August. "If he comes back well he could run at Deauville, but the main target is the Prix De Moulins at Longchamp in early September," trainer Francois Boutin said yesterday.



Doumen: furious

EQUESTRIANISM

Loriston-Clarke misses Olympic selection

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

JENNIE Loriston-Clarke, Britain's most successful dressage rider and a member of the Olympic team since 1972, was yesterday left out of the team for Barcelona.

The selectors named Carl Hester (riding Giorgione), Emile Faerie (Virtu), Carol Parsons (Vashkar) and Laura Fry (Quarryman). Loriston-Clarke and Dutch Gold, who had been considered near certainties for the team, are named only as the reserves.

"It was a very difficult decision between Jennie and Laura for the fourth place," Diana Mason, the chairman of the selectors, said. "In the end, we had a vote and it was 4-3 in favour of Laura."

One factor was that Dutch Gold had shown some irregularity in his test at the final trial last Friday. Loriston-Clarke, putting on a brave face, said she was "a little surprised" when told the team.

"I watched a video of Dutch Gold's test after the trial and couldn't see that he was irregular, though he has never had the best extended trot."

A consistent and reliable performer at championship level, Loriston-Clarke was fourteenth in Seoul and thirteenth at the 1990 world championships.

But she finished only fifth on the 16-year-old stallion at the final trial, for which the judges were all members of the selection committee.

With the Germans and

Dutch likely to take the gold and the silver medals at Barcelona, Britain are leading contenders for the bronze. Hester, aged 25, and Faerie, aged 28, epitomise the new era dawning in British dressage. Both are elegant, stylish riders capable of marks in the high 1,500s.

Hester has been in two championship teams but it is the first time for the South African-born Faerie, who said that the telephone conversation telling him of his team place was "the most wonderful words I have ever heard".

Parsons, a former show jumper, turned to dressage after being inspired by Loriston-Clarke when her pupil 15 years ago. Even two months ago she had not

considered the Olympics a possibility. "I've just come up from nowhere," she said. "My horse is peaking at the right time but don't ask me how — I hadn't planned it."

The Dutch-bred Vashkar did his first grand prix only last year. This spring he was third at Pamfou in France and eleventh in the grand prix special at Schoten in Belgium.

Fry, aged 25, the national champion, has been well placed on Quarryman throughout the season. Fry must prove that her disappointing performance at the European championships last year was only an aberration in a golden career.

BRITISH DRESSAGE TEAM: E. Faerie (Virtu), C. Hester (Giorgione), C. Parsons (Vashkar), J. Fry (Quarryman). Reserve: J. Loriston-Clarke (Dutch Gold).

CYCLING

Wilkinson profits from bold attacking ploy

EXPERIENCE triumphed over determination in Finland country yesterday when Glen Longland proved no match for Andy Wilkinson, the leading British long-distance rider and holder of the Land's End to John o' Groats record, in the national 24-hours championship (Peter Bryan writes).

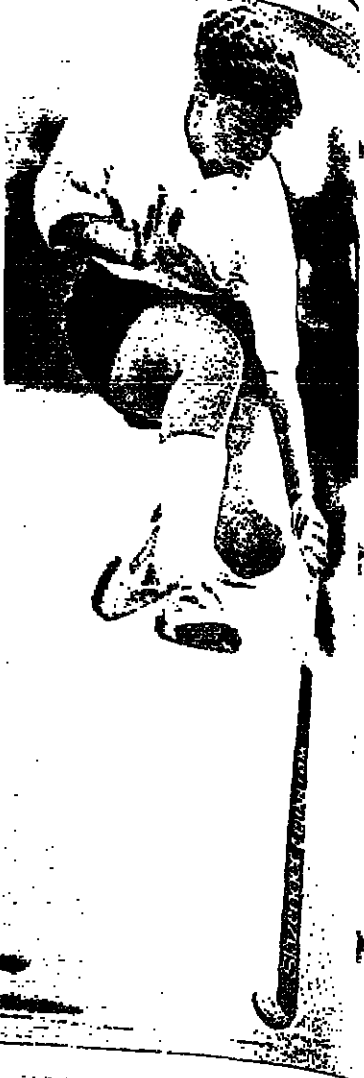
Longland's pedigree, as the 12-hours champion and the only rider to have exceeded 300 miles, suggested that he could win. Yet Wilkinson, who was taking part in his first all-day time trial, immediately showed that he had the confidence to make a fast start and hold the pace. At the 100-mile mark, he had drawn eight

minutes clear of Longland. The news left Longland dispirited, and he climbed off soon afterwards, leaving Wilkinson in command.

Wilkinson covered 502 miles, in spite of windy conditions, to become only the third rider to exceed the 500-mile mark. He finished just short of Roy Cromack's competition record of 507 miles, which was set in 1969.

The two other medal winners, Michael Gray, of Cress, and Ian Gray, of Derby Mercury, were also newcomers to 24-hours competition.

RESULT: 1. A. Wilkinson (Portsmouth), 502 miles; 2. M. Gray (Cress), 481; 3. I. Gray (Derby Mercury), 473; 4. T. Tait, 471; 5. D. Mercuray (I. Gray), G. Mount, 477 miles; 6. S. Pacey, 397; 1,287 miles.



YACHTING

Best crews fail selection trials

BY HARRY PICKFORD

Provisionally, the British Olympic sailing team is disappointed that the best crews failed selection trials. The trials, held at the Royal Yacht Club, saw a number of top crews, including the team from the 1988 Olympics, fail to make the final cut. The trials were held over two days, with crews competing in a variety of classes. The results were announced on Sunday, with the final selection list being published. The team manager, Johnnie Walker, expressed his disappointment at the results, stating that the team had been working hard to prepare for the trials. He noted that the competition was fierce, and that the team had to be at their best to succeed. Despite the disappointment, Walker remains optimistic about the team's chances for the upcoming Olympics. He believes that the team has the talent and experience to succeed, and that they will be able to overcome any setbacks. The team will now focus on training and preparing for the upcoming season, with the goal of winning a medal at the Olympics.

SYNOPSIS

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Leading players warn against return to old foot-fault rule as ITF considers measures to curb the importance of power

Pressure builds for game to resume normal service



Edberg, unenthusiastic

BY ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
QUITE apart from the personal aspirations of 256 players in the main draw of the singles, the game of lawn tennis will be on trial over the next fortnight of the 106th Wimbledon championships, which begin today.

At a seminar earlier in the year, Tony Gathercole, chief technical officer for the ITF, suggested that its favoured option, should change be necessary, would be a return to the pre-1955 foot-fault rule, under which players had to keep one foot on the ground during the service action.

Wimbledon is still the game's biggest showcase and if the domination of brawn over brain persists, the groundswell of feeling for change is bound to grow.



Inside The Times today: 16-page pull-out guide to the Wimbledon championships

Edberg is less than enthusiastic about the prospect — "it would certainly not encourage the serve-and-volleyer" — and his coach, Tony Pickard, is even stronger in his condemnation of the proposals.

Recent statistics produced by the ATP and based on a number of Wimbledon finals over the past 20 years show that the amount of time the ball is in play every hour has dropped from over seven minutes to just under four, a reflection of shorter rallies and the increase in time between points and during changeovers.

Texan plays down Wimbledon chances

McNeill fights off attack of nerves to make sure of title

BY ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IT came on a traditional pilgrimage to Devonshire Park to praise Martina Navratilova, and ended the week in applause for the more understated skills of Lori McNeill.



Aiming high: McNeill displays perfect concentration on her way to victory in the final

Becker finds rhythm

BORIS Becker completed his Wimbledon build-up with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Gabriel Markus in an hour in the Vauxhall Cup match between Europe and The Rest of the World at the Roehampton Club on Saturday.

All-night vigil for a seat

THERE are three ways to get Wimbledon tickets: through the public ballot, by queuing on the day or by responding to one of the many advertisements in the newspapers (Alix Ramsey writes).

Eltingh ousts favourites to clinch his first title

JACCO Eltingh won his first title on the ATP circuit on Saturday and then confessed it was only with some reluctance that he had entered the Direct Line Insurance Open at Manchester (Jan Ross writes).

Lloyd finds like mind in Bollettieri

NICK Bollettieri will be linking with David Lloyd at the Wimbledon championships this week for a meeting of like minds about coaching (Alix Ramsey writes).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Lindsay condemns Hanley for TV deal

FROM KEITH MACKLIN IN SYDNEY

RUGBY League officials at home and in Australia appear to be losing patience with Eleri Hanley, the Great Britain team's non-playing captain, after the announcement that he will be commenting on an Australian television network for nine games, including tomorrow's at Newcastle.

Johnston achieves remarkable double

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

MARGARET Johnston, of Scotland's 22-21 victory in the four final provided much more drama, thanks to a remarkable recovery by New Zealand, who trailed 3-16 after eight ends, but had closed the gap to a single, 20-21, with only two ends to play.

BOWLS

Results, page 26



Durie: most courageous person in British sport

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MONDAY JUNE 22 1992

Pakistan triumph at end of sensational day in which seventeen wickets fall

Wasim overcomes test of nerve

By Alan Lee
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (fourth day of five):
Pakistan beat England by two wickets

OF ALL the gains from Graham Gooch's captaincy of England, the most profound is the players' evident belief that there is no such thing as a lost cause. Such strength of character yesterday clawed back this epic second Test match from an apparently hopeless position but, in a last twist of unbearable tension, it was Pakistan who defied their own lost cause to claim victory.

At the end of an extraordinary day which brought 17 wickets, it was decided by an hour-long ninth-wicket stand of 46, climaxed by a euphoric square-drive for four from the first ball of the day's last over. Fittingly, the batsman was Wasim Akram, subsequently made man of the match, and his unbeaten partner was Waqar Younis. The finest fast bowling pair in the world had shared 13 England wickets: now, they had shared the runs which ensured their efforts had not been in vain.

Pakistan deserved to win, for they had kept their noses in front at every prior stage. But from a dilemma brought about by suspect batting against prodigiously talented swing bowling, England had all but snatched victory and emphatically proved that a Test match does not invariably need a benign pitch and a full five days to command a place in the memory.

Gooch has overseen some improbable victories in his time, including three against West Indies and January's cliffhanger in Christchurch. This, however, was among his finest hours, despite the outcome, for when England's batting disintegrated for the second time, this tautly contested game seemed all but sealed.

Pakistan needed only 138 and had nine hours in which to get them. The pitch, though offering more turn and occasional extremes of bounce than is customary here, was not spiteful. England, moreover, had only three fit bowlers. The odds were stacked against them.

Gooch, however, has been weaned on the Essex psychology of never anticipating failure. He had issued a lengthy, finger-wagging pep talk on the nursery ground before play and he added another in the dressing-room now. The



High fives: Salisbury shares with his colleagues his delight at taking one of three wickets during England's brave fightback

outcome was spectacular.

Chris Lewis had bowled in the first innings with all the spark he had lacked at Edgbaston, but utterly without luck. Now the balance was richly redressed as, in his first three overs, Lewis dismissed Ramiz Raja, Asif Mujtaba and Javed Miandad, all three caught edging balls which left them. They did not manage a single run between them and when Miandad departed, at 18 for three, his face was as tormented as when last he entered the pavilion, it had been ecstatic.

This marvellous match had described some complex turns but now it was to excel itself. With DeFreitas and Botham hobbling, Gooch reluctant to risk either, Ian Salisbury followed Lewis into the roll of heroes.

Three of the next four wickets

were his, making five on his debut. His nerve held under pressure, he spun the ball expansively and demanded caution. His capture of Malik, caught at silly point, seemed crucial, and when Sohail got in a tangle and was bowled for 39 off bat, body and boot, panic was close.

Malcolm, whose recall had been redeemed on Saturday afternoon, now stormed back downwind to have Mushtaq caught at slip. Pakistan were 95 for eight. Eleven overs remained and, if the match was to finish with a day to spare, it looked as if England would win it.

Akram, however, is a man for the biggest occasion and he was not about to allow his day to be upstaged. Constantly encouraging Waqar, he shepherd Pakistan ever nearer. Gooch, his bowling options negligible, did every-

thing possible but it was simply not enough.

Lord's had not quite been full on this breezy, sunlit day but the 26,000 who came will talk of it for years to come. Most, indeed, would have felt the first half of the day justified their expenses, for they saw Pakistan's bowling, at its most devilish, dismantle all in its path bar the increasingly impressive figure of Alec Stewart.

Stewart has made bigger Test scores than 69; by his recent standards, indeed, it almost constitutes a failure. But the fact that he batted more than four hours without being dislodged gained him a place in history as the first Englishman to carry his bat through a Test innings at Lord's.

He was accompanied for almost an hour by Salisbury, the nightwatchman, but from

the time that he fell to a highly dubious lbw verdict against Akram, England's downward spiral was unchecked. Mushtaq Ahmed took three wickets in his first six overs, almost commonplace in such a benefit match for leg-spin, but the ease with which he bamboozled Hick, Smith and Lamb was deeply disquieting to English eyes.

There remained the Botham factor. But not for long. Waqar, summoned after lunch from the pavilion end, removed him leg-before, bowled Lewis with a classic inswinging yorker and then left the mopping up to Akram. Three wickets in four balls did the job and Pakistan were all but home. Or so it seemed.

Allan Donald, the South African fast bowler, took Warwickshire home to a two-wicket victory over Gloucestershire in a Sunday League match at Bristol yesterday when he scammed the winning run off the final ball.

Courtney Walsh, the West Indies fast bowler, lit the fireworks in the fortieth over when, with the scores level on 171, he struck to take two wickets in three balls. First, he threw out a right hand to take a return catch to send back the Warwickshire captain, Andy Lloyd, for a duck and then followed up by shattering the stumps of the wicketkeeper, Piran Halliwell.

But the ice-cool Donald came in and provided the perfect answer by working the final ball away down to fine leg.

Photograph, page 28
Essex beaten, page 28

JOHN WOODCOCK ON THE TEST

Spell-binding day of spin and speed

It is very rare to see bowling of such variety and resourcefulness as we did at Lord's yesterday. Spectators were spell-bound by the way Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram, in their contrasting styles, swung the ball, the guile and cunning with which Mushtaq Ahmed and Ian Salisbury spun it and the unrestrained vigour with which Chris Lewis and Devon Malcolm propelled it.

Seldom on a day of such glorious sunshine, sent from heaven for the gratification of batsmen, can so many wickets have owed at least as much to the skill of the bowlers as to the help they were receiving from a dry but perfectly defensible pitch. Mushtaq and then Salisbury found purchase enough for their leg breaks and googlies, but the available turn and bounce still had to be exploited. May the contribution made by these two to a great cricket match be long remembered.

The most sustained and sensationally successful piece of swing bowling I have seen at Lord's remains the 60 overs in which Bob Massie, the Australian, took 16 wickets for 137 runs against Essex 20 years ago. The way Massie moved the ball about then was so remarkable that England's batsmen were prepared to believe that somewhere, tucked away in an Australian pocket, was some magic solution. Waqar is so good that he has prompted, before now, not dissimilar thoughts.

But when England got through the first half hour yesterday without losing even Salisbury, their nightwatchman, the Pakistanis were beginning to show their frustration. They are a young side, volatile by nature and without the stabilising influence of Imran Khan.

Just in time, Wasim Akram won a leg-before decision. Although Salisbury was the batsman, it was a vital moment in the day. It was the last slice of fortune which the Pakistan bowlers needed. From

thereon they were brilliant. On most other grounds in England, from village green to county headquarters, medium-pacers would have been running into bowlers more in hope than expectation: no variety, a little imagination and the taking of wickets a secondary matter.

At Lord's, Mushtaq began to twirl his spinners, and, when they landed on the spot, England's batsmen knew not what to make of them. Waqar bowled the occasional inswinging yorker that veered so late and travelled so fast that the certainty and composure with which Alec Stewart countered won the admiration of all. As a batsman, Stewart was head and shoulders over everyone else in the day.

Even Aqib Javed, bowled in-swinging yorkers, although he is an out-swing bowler. Had Waqar passed on his secret, I wondered, for secret it surely is. Wasim Akram is different still — left-arm over, left-arm round, one giving this way, the next another, never two balls the same.

When Lewis was then himself inspired, and Salisbury, too, responded to the occasion, it was Pakistan who were fighting for survival.

Whereas Waqar and Wasim had posed their special problems through the air, Lewis did so off the pitch. Like Wasim, he is a fine athlete, a natural cricketer, a live wire. He and Salisbury, 24 and 22 respectively, the adrenaline flowing, their nerves under control, patted and prodded by Gooch, urged on by the crowd, mobbed by their team mates, made their splendid bid for a victory that would have been scarcely less vital than England's against Australia at Headingley in 1981.

That one was made possible by Ian Botham with the bat. Bob Willis with the ball and Mike Brearley at the helm. Botham was there again yesterday, of course, still a massive presence but now, unfortunately, a much less active one.

Sun in prospect for Wimbledon

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

THE Wimbledon tennis championships open today with the forecast of much better weather than the rain that swamped the All England Club last year.

It rained on the first five days of Wimbledon 1991, but the London Meteorological Centre yesterday expected that early mist today would soon clear and there would be sunny intervals with some cloud and only a possibility of light showers. The long-range weather forecast is for warm, dry sunny spells until Thursday, with only a risk of isolated showers.

Last year, the rain caused a backlog of more than 200 matches and the All England Club was forced to schedule play for the first time in the history of the tournament.

Monica Seles, the world's No. 1 woman player and top seed for Wimbledon, warned yesterday today by playing in a charity exhibition match, partnering the American actor John Forsythe, who at 74 is more than four times her age.

They lost a close mixed doubles match 5-4, with the Hurlingham garden party after a tie-break, to Virginia Wade, a former Wimbledon champion, and the actor Jason Connery.

Seles, born in Yugoslavia and now living in the United States, missed Wimbledon last year in circumstances that have never been fully explained. She said yesterday: "I'm going to put 1991 behind me and look forward to 1992."

her that she had had a very successful 1991, she said: "Yes, but I didn't get to play Wimbledon."

Asked about possible Croat protests at Wimbledon over the situation in Yugoslavia, she declined to comment.

Forsythe said: "Monica deserves a tremendous amount of credit for playing this match. It could be counterproductive for her to play this kind of match on the eve of Wimbledon."

He pointed out the event was for charity and added: "I personally think she wants to dispel bad publicity from last year. This is one way of doing it: the other is to show up and play, and play well, in good spirits."

The bookmakers William Hill reported yesterday that there had been no takers for their 1,000-1 offer about a British victory in the men's or women's singles at Wimbledon. Hills make Stefan Edberg favourite for the men's singles at 9-4, followed by Jim Courier and Michael Stich at 11-2. Boris Becker at 6-1 and Pete Sampras at 12-1. Steffi Graf is the women's favourite at 6-4, with Seles at 2-1, Marina Navratilova at 7-1, Jennifer Capriati at 10-1, and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario at 25-1.

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Inside The Times today 16-page pull-out on the championships

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FULL SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

England won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings					
	6s	4s	Mn	Balls	
*G A Gooch b Wasim	69	0	13	132	98
A J Stewart c Javed b Mujtaba	74	0	12	240	173
Upshott drive to extra cover					
G A Hick c Javed b Waqar	13	0	1	39	21
Slotted attempted pull to mid on					
R A Smith c sub (Rashedi) b Wasim	9	0	2	23	19
Off face of bat to third slip					
A J Lamb b Waqar	30	0	5	74	69
Fast off cutter					
I T Botham b Waqar	2	0	0	14	8
Swinging yorker					
C C Lewis b Waqar	2	0	0	9	12
Inswinging yorker					
TR C Russell not out	22	0	3	55	38
P A J DeFreitas c Inzamam b Waqar	3	0	0	28	22
Arched ball, low to second slip					
I D K Salisbury hit wicket b Mushtaq	4	0	1	4	5
Right foot side back onto off stump					
D E Malcolm bow b Mushtaq	0	0	0	7	3
Pushed up					
Extras (lb 6, lb 12, nb 9)	27				
Total (222 min, 76.1 overs)	255				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-123 (Stewart 38), 2-153 (Stewart 54), 3-172 (Stewart 62), 4-187 (Lamb 13), 5-215 (Lamb 29), 6-221 (Lamb 29), 7-222 (Russell 5), 8-242 (Russell 13), 9-247 (Russell 14).

BOWLING: Wasim 19.5-49-2 (nb 3) (8-1-27-0), 10-4-22-2; Aqib 14-3-40-0 (nb 2) (6-1-19-0), 5-1-12-0, 3-1-0-0; Waqar 21-4-51-5 (5-1-25-0), 7-2-35-1, 9-1-31-4; Mushtaq 18-5-57-2 (3-0-16-0), 16-1-41-2; Mujtaba 3-0-1 (1-1-0-0, 2-2-0-1).

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: 50 in 67 min, 15.4 overs, 100 in 113 min, 26.4 overs. Lunch: 108-0 (Stewart 38), 29 overs. 150 in 123 min, 40 overs. Tea: 197-4 (Lamb 13), 57.3 overs. 200 in 243 min, 58.1 overs. 250 in 316 min, 75.1 overs. Innings closed at 5.22.

Second Innings					
	6s	4s	Mn	Balls	
*G A Gooch lbw b Aqib	13	0	1	55	40
Batman off pitch					
A J Stewart not out	69	0	9	249	138
I D K Salisbury lbw b Wasim	12	0	1	58	51
Swinging half forward					
G A Hick c Malik b Mushtaq	11	0	2	31	20
Edged defensive shot to wicketkeeper					
R A Smith b Mushtaq	8	0	2	8	5
Bowled round legs					
A J Lamb bow b Mushtaq	12	0	2	22	25
Ball kept low					
I T Botham lbw Waqar	6	0	0	32	31
Batman off pitch					
C C Lewis b Waqar	15	0	2	19	18
Beaten by full-length inswinging					
TR C Russell b Wasim	1	0	0	3	2
Fast yorker					
P A J DeFreitas c Inzamam b Wasim	0	0	0	2	2
Second slip diving in front of first slip					
D E Malcolm b Wasim	0	0	0	1	1
Inswinging yorker					
Extras (lb 5, lb 8, nb 15)	28				
Total (249 min, 52.4 overs)	175				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40 (Stewart 16), 2-73 (Stewart 26), 3-108 (Stewart 48), 4-120 (Stewart 52), 5-137 (Stewart 55), 6-148 (Stewart 59), 7-174 (Stewart 63), 8-175 (Stewart 65), 9-175 (Stewart 65).

BOWLING: Wasim 17-4-64-4 (nb 14) (5-0-16-0), 9-1-31-1, 3-4-1-19-3; Aqib 12-3-23-1 (nb 3) (7-2-15-1, 5-1-7-0); Waqar 13-3-40-2 (3-2-32-0, 4-1-8-2); Mushtaq 9-1-32-3; Mujtaba 1-0-1-0.

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: Third day: 50: 82 min, 17 overs. Close: 52-1 (Stewart 21), Salisbury 11, 18 overs. Fourth day: 100: 138 min, 28.2 overs. Lunch: 147-5 (Stewart 58), Botham 6, 45 overs. 150: 221 min, 48.1 overs. Innings closed at 2.23pm.

PAKISTAN: First Innings					
	6s	4s	Mn	Balls	
Aamir Sohail c Russell b DeFreitas	73	0	11	156	108
Reaching for ball wide of off stump					
Ramiz Raja b Lewis	24	0	5	53	36
Fast off cutter hit top of off stump					
Asif Mujtaba c Smith b Malcolm	59	0	8	237	172
Top-edged hook to mid-wicket					
*Javed Miandad c Botham b Salisbury	9	0	1	29	27
Edged lifting leg break to diving slip					
Salim Malik c Smith b Malcolm	55	0	8	126	82
Lefted drive to mid-off					
Inzamam-ul-Haq c and b Malcolm	0	0	0	2	2
Slotted attempted hook					
Wasim Akram b Salisbury	24	0	2	66	42
Bowled between legs					
†Moin Khan c Botham b DeFreitas	12	0	1	63	52
Edged to third slip diving low to left					
Mushtaq Ahmed c Russell b DeFreitas	4	0	0	30	25
Edged outwinger to keeper					
Waqar Younis b Malcolm	14	0	0	48	34
Yorker					
Aqib Javed not out	5	0	1	32	23
Extras (lb 4, lb 3, nb 7)	14				
Total (430 min, 98.5 overs)	283				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43 (Sohail 16), 2-123 (Mujtaba 22), 3-143 (Mujtaba 32), 4-228 (Sohail 52), 5-228 (Sohail 52), 6-235 (Wasim 4), 7-263 (Moin 8), 8-271 (Mushtaq 2), 9-276 (Waqar 3).

BOWLING: DeFreitas 26-6-56-3 (nb 8) (10-3-36-0, 7-1-15-1, 9-4-7-2); Malcolm 15-5-17-0-4 (3-0-20-0, 4-0-21-0, 7-1-25-3, 1-5-0-4-1); Lewis 29-7-76-1 (nb 2) (8-3-25-1, 3-2-4-0, 8-1-26-0, 4-1-7-0, 8-0-14-0); Salisbury 23-7-73-2 (18-2-53-1, 5-1-20-1); Botham 5-2-0-0 (one spell).

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: First day: Close 31-0 (Sohail 10, Ramiz 20), 7 overs. Second day: 50: 67 min, 14.3 overs, 100: 118 min, 25 overs. Lunch: 123-1 (Sohail 73, Mujtaba 22), 33 overs. Rain from lunch prevented restart, abandoned at 4.30. Third day: 150: 198 min, 44 overs. 200: 259 min, 59.1 overs. Lunch: 203-3 (Mujtaba 55, Salim 37), 63 overs. 250: 340 min, 77.3 overs. New ball 271-7, 86 overs. Tea: 274-8 (Mushtaq 3, Waqar 2), 90 overs. Innings closed at 4.38.

Second Innings					
	6s	4s	Mn	Balls	
Aamir Sohail b Salisbury	38	0	3	108	74
Ball spun from body to off stump					
Ramiz Raja c Hick b Lewis	0	0	0	8	1
Edged low to second slip a left					
Asif Mujtaba c Russell b Lewis	0	0	0	7	5
Ball straightened and lifted					
*Javed Miandad c Russell b Lewis	0	0	0	10	6
Edged wide outwinger to keeper					
Salim Malik c Lewis b Salisbury	12	0	1	32	22
Edged to short stop					
Inzamam-ul-Haq run out (Russell-Lewis)	8	0	1	35	24
Attempting second run to deep third man					
Wasim Akram not out	45	0	4	124	64
†Moin Khan c Smith b Salisbury	3	0	0	31	25
Caught at silly mid-off					
Mushtaq Ahmed c Hick b Malcolm	5	0	0	21	16
Driving — low to second slip					
Waqar Younis not out	20	0	2	58	33
Extras (lb 2, lb 5, w 1, nb 1)	9				
Total (8 wks, 225 min, 45.1 overs)	141				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5 (Sohail 4), 2-10 (Sohail 8), 3-18 (Sohail 16), 4-41 (Sohail 27), 5-62 (Sohail 38), 6-58 (Wasim 5), 7-61 (Wasim 15), 8-85 (Wasim 22).

BOWLING: Malcolm 15-2-42-1 (w 1) (6-0-21-0, 8-2-21-1); Lewis 16-2-43-3 (nb 1) (14-3-29-3, 2-0-14-0); Salisbury 14-1-48-3 (8-0-27-2, 3-0-8-1, 3-1-0-14-0).

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: Tea: 41-4 (Sohail 27, Inzamam 0), 13 overs. 50: 76 min, 16.4 overs. 100: 173 min, 35.5 overs. Umpires: B Dudson and J H Hampshire. Man of the match: Wasim Akram (adjudicator: V J Marks). Pakistan won by two wickets at 6.00pm.